

A photograph of a historic courtyard in Rye, England. The courtyard is paved with cobblestones and has a central entrance to a brick building. The building has a dark door and several windows. To the right is a yellow brick building with arched windows and doors. To the left is a brick wall with a black metal railing. The sky is blue and clear.

Rye Conservation Society

Annual
Report 2016

RYE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

OFFICERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, CONSULTANTS AND TRUSTEES 2016

Vice-Presidents

Kenneth BIRD Esq
Robert BROMLEY Esq
John POPE Esq

Executive Officers

John Griffiths, Chairman; 01797 223594, johngriffiths@freeuk.com
Julian Lockett, Vice Chairman; 01797 252114, millhousenorthiam@sky.com
David Bookless, Hon Secretary; 01797 224650, ryeconservation@gmail.com
Diana Hajikakou, Hon Treasurer; 01797 224046, kyriacos2010@hotmail.co.uk
Wayne Jones, Planning Liaison; 01797 229795, waynethurstonjones@me.com
Andy Stuart, Publicity & Membership Secretary; 01797 223831, nikiandandy@hotmail.co.uk
Rae Festing BEM, Assistant Events; 01797 223952

Executive Committee Members

Andrew Bamji	227961, bamji@btinternet.com
Mike Slavin	224916, mikes@pobox.com
Mike Stott	224614, mstott@btinternet.com

Planning Committee Members

Julian Lockett, Chairman
Alan Dickinson
Rae Festing
John Griffiths
Wayne Jones

Honorary Consultants

Alan Dickinson	Historical
Nicola Frith	Legal Advisor
John Royle	Maritime Affairs

Trustees:

John Griffiths
David Bookless
Diana Hajikakou
Andy Stuart

Front Cover: View down West Street looking to Lamb House

RYE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

NOTICE OF THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to be held in The Town Hall Council Chamber, Rye, at 11.15am on Friday 21 April 2017

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 22 April 2016
3. Matters arising
4. Reports from the Chairman and Officers; other reports
5. Treasurer's Report and approval of Accounts for the year 2016
6. Elections: the Executive Officers and Committee Members currently serving are listed on the previous page. All the current Executive Officers and Committee Members are seeking re-election.
The Committee wishes to re-appoint Robert Bromley, Kenneth Bird and John Pope as Vice-Presidents. The post of President remains vacant for the time being.
7. Any Other Business (see note 2)

Notes

1. Any member who wishes to nominate another member for the Executive Committee should apply to the Hon Secretary for a nomination form, which must be returned to him at least fourteen days before the meeting.
2. Any member wishing to raise a matter under Any Other Business must notify the Hon Secretary at least fourteen days before the meeting.
3. Please bring your copy of this report with you to the AGM as spare copies may not be available.

*David Bookless, Hon Secretary
Top Flat, Faraday House
The Mint, Rye
East Sussex TN31 7EW
Tel: 01797 224650, email: ryeconservation@gmail.com*

1. Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting, 22 April 2016

The 44th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at St Mary's Church Centre, Rye, on Friday 22 April 2016, chaired by Mr John Griffiths and attended by 50 members and guests.

1.1 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Kenneth & Margaret Bird, Pam Buxton, Allan Downend, Pamela Earl, Dilys Mayor, John & Sylvia Pope, Niki Stuart, Bill Taylor.

1.2 Minutes of the 43rd AGM

These were approved; there were no matters arising.

1.3 Chairman's Report

The year 2015 saw changes in the Society's management team.

He reported that after five years as Hon. Secretary Judith O'Connor had given good notice that she would like to stand down at the AGM. He said that he would like to thank her again for all the help she gave so willingly and for the diplomacy and skill she brought to dealing with a great variety of matters.

In her place we welcomed David Bookless. David has been for some years our Independent Examiner. As such he is no stranger to the Society. His willing help and quiet comments are greatly appreciated and thanks to Judith, Julian Luckett and David all working together it has been a seamless handover.

We welcome as our new Independent Examiner Mervyn Hayes who is Chairman of the Northiam Conservation Society.

When John Pope, who had been our Planning Liaison Officer for no less than twelve years, said he wished to stand down, we were delighted that Wayne Jones agreed to take on the post.

He said that sadly the Report contained three obituaries: Paul Blomfield, our Chairman for sixteen years, who died in January, Roger Breeds who died in February and Jenny Lee who died in July. All brought their own skills and knowledge and we miss them all.

Events and activities of the Society are shown elsewhere in this report over the names of those responsible. It remains for me to congratulate and thank them on behalf of all our members and also for me to thank all our members for their continuing support.

The Chairman invited committee members to give their reports.

Andy Stuart, Publicity and Membership

Firstly, I would like to welcome all the new members who joined the Society during 2015 – either on an annual basis or those who have signed up for life! Your support is much appreciated and we hope to see you at the events we run during the year.

Secondly, I would like to thank all our existing annual members for renewing their subscriptions and also those who have yet to pay their subscriptions for 2016 but who I am sure fully intend to do so at the earliest opportunity!

I would like to thank all of those splendid volunteers who helped with newsletter deliveries through the year, often with little warning. Particular thanks go to Jill Johnson and Denny Nichol for their sterling efforts in Iden and beyond! And for Helen Griffiths for pounding the cobbles of Rye. But for sheer miles covered delivering at the drop of the hat, many thanks to Gill and Paddy Harvey!

Thanks too to John Griffiths for his work in laying out the newsletter and providing his printing operation in Watchbell Street which is surely the largest works in the South East since the exodus from Fleet Street.

Publicity has been quiet this year but the Society has made a couple of highly detailed responses to the developing Rye Neighbourhood Plan. And the Society is very much involved in the ongoing discussions between Rother District Council, Rye Town Council and other interested parties in the fate of the Landgate Arch.

Julian Luckett, Chairman of the Planning Committee

Thank you Mr Chairman.

I refer in the annual report to the work of the Planning Committee which last year saw a slight reduction in the number of applications. The majority of the applications both for planning and listed building consent are considered by the Planning Committee where they are for minor matters. Where an application is thought to be of sufficient importance, such as the Rock Channel application, it will be looked at by the whole of the Executive Committee.

The Planning Committee consists of six members, four of whom have a lifetime of architectural and historic building experience, with two lay members helping to balance the professional view and I thank all of them for their input. Sadly our numbers were diminished by the death of Roger Breeds earlier this year and we miss his detailed local input and knowledge. When matters are considered by the full Executive Committee, there is a majority of lay members with a wide range of interests and views.

Amongst the applications considered this year were that for the Bourne's site at Rock Channel and for Tilling Green, both of which we objected to. I am pleased to say that the Rock Channel scheme was withdrawn and we learn today from the Rye Observer that the Tilling Green application has also been withdrawn. As the Rock Channel site has recently changed ownership, we await with interest a revised application. In the case of Tilling Green the failure to meet the basic flooding design criteria only served to illustrate the lack of detail

design and imagination put into the proposals. Future development in Rye will require better and more imaginative solutions.

The dismissal of the appeal against the refusal of the Grist Mill application is great news as we vigorously opposed the scheme. The comments within the inspector's report will help to establish clear design guidelines for the future of this and other adjacent sites.

That modern design in a historic setting can be controversial is highlighted by the range of opinions expressed following the completion of the new building on the old Central Garage site in Cinque Ports Street. Like Marmite, it seems to be either liked or loathed. It does show however that, after all the statutory planning issues have been addressed, it comes down to a matter of judgment, by the architects, the planning officers and the Rother Planning Committee members as well as by interested bodies such as our Society.

Your say in this process will be enhanced by the adoption of the Rye Neighbourhood Plan, which is currently being revised and on which the Society has made detailed comments. It is vital that all members take time to read and comment on the draft when it is published.

Finally, although the large-scale applications make the headlines, we as a committee are very well aware that it is the loss of the little elements of our historic town which count as much, if not more, for it is these that make and reinforce Rye's unique identity.

Wayne Jones, Planning Liaison Officer

Wayne reported that, after stepping, with some trepidation, into John Pope's shoes, the year has proved to be relatively uneventful inasmuch as no major issues have needed attention. However, the minor problems that beset a conservation area such as ours can, if not dealt with, cause unsightly blight.

The Society has, therefore, dealt with a variety of reported problems: the ever-present issue of prominent satellite dishes; the use of UPVC window frames and the use of incorrect pointing during renovations. The issue of drainage covers rumbles on, with broken and potentially dangerous ones unfortunately still in place, particularly in the High Street. We will continue to address this problem.

We were successful in finally persuading East Sussex Highways that one particularly dangerous kerbstone in Mermaid Street was likely to lead to someone slipping into the road and possibly into the path of a passing car. The threat of heavy insurance claims can have a magical effect and it has at last been repaired. We continue to monitor the street as there are several other kerbstones that will soon need attention.

The Society is concerned over the proliferation of signs and banners around the town. Whilst we appreciate the need of businesses to generate trade, the size and prominent position of some banners, such as that on the side of the Grist Mill and others in the Citadel are inappropriate and unattractive. We are currently taking advice from Rother planning.

Whilst the problem of the Landgate has rightly exercised the Society, we are also aware of less prominent town landmarks that are need of attention. One such example is the often overlooked pump in Church Square (Pump Street). The wooden housing is rotting away, so what is an old and important part of the town's heritage is now an eyesore. We are currently

investigating – with the support of the mayor- the possibility of contributing to its total restoration. We have ongoing meetings with the Conservation Officer and are hopeful for success.

Mike Slavin, Community Energy

Mike reported that there had been major changes in the energy landscape nationally as the result of big shifts in Government strategy. For Community Energy the last 12 months had been very disappointing with five projects we had identified either being cancelled or massively scaled down. The only survivor had been the project at Rye Academy for a solar installation on the Studio School, completed near the end of 2015.

He was hoping for the evolution of a much more stable energy strategy nationally carbon emissions and climate change being still extraordinarily important strategic issues. Locally the national strategy changes are leading us to concentrate on energy conservation and improving the availability of support services to those in energy difficulties.

John Griffiths, Events

John reported that on 17 April we held our first event of 2015, the Annual General Meeting, in the St. Mary's Centre. After the meeting we re-gathered for our Annual Lunch at the Mermaid. The Dining Room was filled to capacity.

We had a very informative and interesting visit to Standen House and Ditchling Museum of Arts + Crafts on 22 May. Gill Wood provided a written commentary on the day which included a tour of Standen House and garden with a delicious lunch in the house. Following lunch the group took the coach to Ditchling, a village nestling in the South Downs which was for many years home to an Arts and Crafts community started by the sculptor and letter cutter Eric Gill in 1921. The museum was started in 1925 and was refurbished with a very attractive modern extension and reopened in 2013. After a good look at the exhibits we went to the 11th Century Church of St Margarets and had time for a wander around the village.

We were grateful to Niki and Andy Stuart for the use of their delightful garden and their kitchen/dining room for the Annual Garden party on 14 June. We were grateful too to Rae Festing and Jen Tomkinson for organising and preparing the food and drinks. It was good to see so many people visiting Little Orchard House in West Street - members, their guests and visitors to Rye.

On 30th September thirty one members of the Rye Conservation Society set off on a glorious day to visit Ramsgate, to be shown around part of the harbour by members of the Ramsgate Society. We were shown the workings of the harbour, the need for de-silting and viewed the Sailors Church. Following a delicious lunch in town the group visited the Grange, home of Augustus Pugin and also his St Augustine's Church next door

The Christmas Celebration was again held in the Council Room of Rye Town Hall with superb food by Rae Festing and Jen Tomkinson. Andy Stuart and Diana Hajikakou manned the entrance and our thanks go to Diana's husband, Kyriacos, for selecting the wines and, with John Pope, manning the bar. We were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Rye,

Bernadette Fiddimore and the Mayor of Winchelsea, John Spencer. The party went well and it was good to see so many members and guests enjoying themselves.

Andrew Bamji, Highways Forum

Andrew reported that the Highways Forum had considered a number of issues over the last year. Regrettably the police representatives had been withdrawn following changes to their deployment. The Forum has expressed its disappointment that parking enforcement seems no longer a priority. He reported on some of the issues discussed by the Forum.

A 'one way' sign was introduced in Deadman's Lane and some overhanging vegetation had been removed, but it was not thought possible to introduce a pavement or road widening.

Problems continued with parking outside cash machines around West Street. The Society had proposed a revised road layout which would, by widening the High Street pavement outside the NatWest Bank, make it physically impossible to turn into West Street from the High Street. The Town Council is now considering this report.

There had been discussion on the provision of a new crossing in Station Approach, but there were technical problems, and also no statistics to prove that there was a serious hazard

The Forum expressed its concern to ESCC over the failure to renew white lines and crossing markings and renewal of the markings in Cinque Port Street was undertaken within weeks.

The appalling state of the Rope Walk road surface has now been rectified

RCS is conducting a survey over the state of secret gutters, particularly where they are a trip hazard.

He added that there are still major problems with parking in Rye. These included illegal parking in restricted areas, overstaying, abuse of parking by residents and traders in the High Street, obstruction of access and damage to the environment (pavements and grass verges, the latter particularly at Gun Garden and on the Tilling Green estate). The Forum had continued to discuss the possibility of advisory ticketing or direct contact by the Council or Mayor with regular offenders. However it concluded once again that without enforcement there was unlikely to be any major change of behaviour and that the problems would continue.

John Royle, Maritime

John reported that both commercial and pleasure vessel movements in and out of the port of Rye had been low throughout the period. The fishing fleet were hampered by bad weather, with the trawlers only managing 7 trips in total for the months of Nov, Dec and Jan. The fishermen were faced with punitive fish quotas imposed on under 10 metre boats, which comprise all the Rye and Hastings trawlers. They have had meetings with DEFRA representatives supported by our local MP.

He added that the Rye Maritime Festival has become a victim of its own success and will not take place in 2016. The organisers felt that the narrow access way left between the stalls and the unprotected edge of the quay was a hazard given the number of people with their dogs and push chairs attending.

1.4 Treasurer's Report

The Chairman invited Diana Hajikakou to give her report. Diana was pleased to be able to report to members that, as in recent years, the Society was in a sound position financially. There has been a surplus of income over expenditure of £775.29. The accounts showed the subscription income to be similar to last year and the events and outings remained popular and well supported.

She thanked Mervyn Hayes for auditing the accounts

There being no questions on the accounts, they were unanimously approved, proposed by Rosemary Bagley and seconded by Judith O'Connor.

1.5 Election of Officers

No new nominations for membership of the Executive Committee had been received. All the present Committee put themselves forward for re-election, as follows, and the Chairman proposed that they be re-appointed en bloc.

Chairman, John Griffiths

Vice Chairman, Julian Lockett

Honorary Secretary, David Bookless

Honorary Treasurer, Diana Hajikakou

Membership and Publicity Officer, Andy Stuart

Chairman of Planning Committee, Julian Lockett

Planning Liaison Officer, Wayne Jones

Community Energy, Mike Slavin

Assistant Events, Rae Festing

Committee Members, Andrew Bamji, Mike Stott.

These appointments were approved unanimously, proposed by Rosemary Bagley and seconded by Monica Dunn.

It was proposed that the vice presidents be reappointed en bloc.

R Bromley

John Pope

Kenneth Bird

Proposed by Judith O'Connor and seconded by P Ryan.

1.7 Any other Business

There being no other business, the AGM closed at 12.15 and most of those present then adjourned to The Mermaid Inn for the Annual Lunch.

David Bookless

May 2016

2. Rye Conservation Society Forty-fifth Annual Report for 2016

2.1 *Chairman's Report*

During 2016 there were few changes to our Executive Committee and none to our Planning Committee. We were sorry to lose Mike Slavin who, with Val, decided to move from Rye Harbour to Rochester. We miss his reports on all aspects of energy.

A long standing invitation to John Spencer to sit in on our meetings was taken up during the year as his two year term as Mayor of Winchelsea permitted.

During the latter half of the year, as reported elsewhere, Rae Festing became more and more frustrated by her immobility while waiting for a knee operation. Like most of our Committee members, Rae was seldom absent. The strength of our Committees and loyalty of the members can be seen in their regular attendance.

As can be seen in the reports which follow financial restraint, lack of staff and well meaning bureaucracy can be frustrating for Rye Conservation Society who want the Landgate repaired, the pump housing in Church Square repaired and the approach to Rye improved.

Finally may I thank all for their support and encouragement during the year.

John Griffiths



The historic Landgate



The Water Pump

2.2 *Membership and Publicity Report*

Once again I would like to pay tribute to our Chairman John Griffiths, without whom the regular supply of beefy newsletters would not happen! John writes much of, edits, subs, lays out, prints, folds, stuffs envelopes and affixes stamps from his office in Watchbell Street. I would like to thank all our contributors, which includes Members reporting back from the series of fascinating outings held throughout the year, as well as officers on the Society's Executive and Planning Committees of the Society.

I am very grateful to those who help with the distribution of the newsletters, often at short notice. So big thanks go to Helen Griffiths, Gill and Paddy Harvey, Denny Nicol and Jill Johnson for pounding the pavements in order to make sure Members receives their copy!

Thanks also go put to both RyeNews and the Rye Observer which have been very helpful in giving publicity to various issues, with a particular gratitude to the former for its proactive nature in seeking contributions from the society.

In terms of Membership, numbers are roughly the same, but the Society would be more than happy should existing Members migrate from paying back cash to banker's order if they are on annual membership! Or why not simply sign up for life Membership with a one-off payment?

However, it doesn't matter how Members pay their subscriptions and whether it is annually or not, I would like to thank each and every Member of the Society for their continuing and generous support!

Andy Stuart

2.3 *Treasurer's Report*

Members will be pleased to see that the Society is again in a satisfactory financial position. Income from events and outings was down on the previous year as there were fewer outings than in 2015. Subscription income was reduced as fewer life members joined the Society than in the year before. Set against this was the receipt of £224, a one-off payment due to the closure of the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies leading to the distribution of its remaining assets to its members.

The balance sheet as of 31st December, 2016 appears on the following pages.

Diana Hajikakou.

RYE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2016

Assets at 31.12.16	£
Bank balance LloydsTSB	3785.29
Charity Deposit Account	11063.99
Less debts (1)	85.46
Total assets	14763.82

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2015 AND 2016

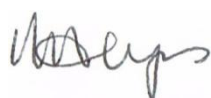
Income	2016	2015
Events & outings	3440.05	4081.64
Subscriptions	818.00	979.00
Donations	00.00	18.50
Gift Aid	164.85	144.00
COIF interest	46.90	49.44
Sundry	224.00	
Total Income	4693.80	5272.58
Income minus Expenditure	844.08	775.29

Notes

(1) Uncashed Cheques

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 prepared by Hon. Treasurer,
Mrs D J Hajikakou

I have examined the income and expenditure accounts of the
Rye Conservation Society for the year ended 31 December 2016
and have compare them with the books and vouchers supplied.
In my opinion they are correct and in accordance.



Independent Examiner
Date: 19 February 2017

Mervyn Hayes

Assets at 31.12.15	£
Bank balance Lloyds TSB	2982.76
Charity Deposit Account	11017.65
Less debts (1)	151.10
Total Assets	13848.75

Expenditure	2016	2015
Events & Outings	1838.48	2458.63
Affiliation fees	80.00	105.00
Insurance	197.10	190.00
Printing/Stationery	281.14	90.47
Post/telephone	53.00	100.95
Administration	0.00	9.99
AGM/Awards	1400.00	1290.26
Sundry	0.00	251.99
Total Expenditure	3849.72	4497.29

2.4 *Planning Committee Report*

2015 ended with the withdrawal of the planning application for Rock Channel which, in retrospect, seemed to set the tone for 2016, when a number of significant applications or proposals were either rejected or withdrawn.

In April 2016 the application by Amicus Horizon for the redevelopment of the former Tilling Green primary school site was withdrawn, following reconsideration of the impact of Environment Agency flood requirements and design issues. This only served to highlight the difficulties of developing in Rye and the need for all the elements to be fully investigated and incorporated into any scheme.

In May a revised application for the redevelopment of the former Gristmill Pine site was lodged. This was for a much more architecturally considered scheme of five flats above a ground-floor commercial unit. The Society supported the design approach but was concerned at the lack of adequate parking. This was one of the main reasons for its refusal in October, together with the issue of height. The insistence by Rother on limiting the height to two storeys is, in our view, detrimental to the development of this side of Winchelsea Road. We believe it will potentially result in a series of ‘bungalows on stilts’. It is interesting that the inspector, in his decision on the appeal on the previous scheme, was concerned at the bulky plan form but considered that the scheme did not materially affect the living conditions of the surrounding neighbours. Given that the 2016 proposals were lower in height, if the parking proposals can be addressed we suspect that the developer will return to the fray.

The saga of The Landgate continued throughout the year. Following a meeting with Rother at the Town Hall in September to hear how RDC was looking to move forward, we anticipated the release of ‘A Vision Statement’ in November. At the time of going to press this statement is still awaited, apparently delayed by staff issues. We remain convinced that, in the end, The Landgate will need to be preserved as a managed ruin.

In October the new owners of the Lower School site, Plutus Developments (Rye) exhibited conceptual proposals for a new housing development for the site. This was for 77 homes, retaining the Queen Adelaide pub which they had also purchased. The Society was highly critical of the scheme. Again it did not address the fact that it lies within Flood Zone 3 which will have a considerable effect on any scheme. It also did not, in our view, meet the East Sussex parking requirements. Furthermore, the decision to retain the Queen Adelaide resulted in a potentially dangerous junction on to Ferry Road, very close to the railway crossing. Unlike the two supermarket proposals, virtually all the tree belt along the railway line, which is covered by a Tree Preservation Order, was obliterated. Our view is that a housing scheme for approximately 50 homes is possible on this site, which is likely to provide the maximum affordable housing provision of any of the potential housing sites in Rye.

One area of Rye that continues to concern the Society is the usage of the land between Winchelsea Road and The Tillingham, given its importance as the setting of Rye when approached from the west. We are pleased that Rother has recently only granted a temporary three-year consent for another car showroom parking area.

The Rye Neighbourhood Plan during 2016 has developed from version 6 to version 8 and has had to deal with emerging changes to planning policy both from central government and by the issue in November of Rother's draft Development & Site Allocation Plan. This did not address development sites in Rye, as this is the main thrust of the Neighbourhood Plan, but did set out additional draft policies which would apply to the whole of the district. The Society looks forward to commenting on the final draft Plan when it is put forward for the formal six-week, Regulation 14, consultation period.

Probably the most important issue that concerned planning in Rother during 2016 was the continuing lack of a five-year housing supply, which is currently considered to be only at the 3.9 year supply level. Why is this important? It is because the National Planning Policy Framework states that, if such a provision is not achieved, then *'housing applications should be considered in the context of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Relevant policies for the supply of housing should not be considered up-to-date if the local planning authority cannot demonstrate a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites'*. Put simply, previously policies, such as settlement boundaries, are now considered 'out of date' and do not carry the weight they formerly did.

This has resulted in considerable pressure on Rother to provide housing based upon the wider criteria of what is sustainable development, at times against the wishes of local residents and, in some cases, their emerging neighbourhood plans. Until the major housing developments at Bexhill are underway, this is likely to remain the case.

The number of planning applications considered by the Planning Committee has remained pretty much static this year; I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their time, input and sometimes sharp and pertinent comments.

Julian Lockett

2.5 Planning Liaison Report

As far as planning issues around the town were concerned, 2016 was something of a curate's egg. This time last year we were receiving complaints about the number of advertising banners that were festooning the town. We thought that with support from Rother this issue would be speedily solved but a quick walk around the town would tell you that the problem still persists. Despite the excellent work from the planning enforcement officer, some establishments are wilfully ignoring his instructions. We are not giving up, however, and are currently concentrating on the number of A boards on pavements, particularly at the top of Conduit Hill.

The seemingly never-ending story of the Church Square (Pump Street) pump seems to be reaching a conclusion. Rye Town Council agreed last year to match fund the cost of restoration but then we learned that, as a part of the Water Cistern (albeit detached), the pump was a scheduled monument and needed permission from Historic England. This took yet more time but at the end of the year we were told that the application had been successful. We are now awaiting estimates from carpenters and we are as confident as we can be that work will begin in the near future.

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of renovations/alterations/excavations (!) that are taking place around the town without planning permission. By establishing a good working relationship with the above-mentioned Rother Enforcement Officer, we hope that in future, such infringements will become rare occurrences. On the other hand, we are pleased that on at least two occasions, shopkeepers have asked our advice on minor changes to their shop fronts that are appropriate to the overall appearance of our ancient town.

2.6 *Energy*

The changes in the energy market heralded in last year's Annual Report are now beginning to bite – hard. When faced with the inevitable bills for gas and electricity, especially at the end of the winter period, it's difficult to believe that many of the big energy companies are being forced to change their business models because they have become unprofitable after decades of unending success. The reasons are complex, rapid changes in the wholesale costs of energy, political turmoil, the success of renewables, old plant wearing out, changes in technology, waste disposal and, most importantly – climate change. The whole sector has developed an acronym soup to help it develop – which then makes it even more difficult to understand and explain – but the changes are inevitable.

It is a paradox that some of these changes have temporarily halted the development of renewables around Rye – essentially the sudden and drastic reductions in Feed in Tariff for solar projects in the UK. Only two projects have been implemented, the solar panels on the Studio School and the Environment Agency's 25 kWp scheme at Rye Harbour. The potential is still there, especially along Harbour Road, but large scale implementation will have to await some major technical and organisational changes in the sector. Some of these will have implications for conservation – many buildings in and around Rye still use far too much energy. They need sympathetic and economic upgrading without ruining the special ethos that is the attraction of Rye. Keeping track of these complex changes is thus an essential role for the Society.

Meanwhile, for a litany of reasons, it looks inevitable that, if you have not yet been advised of a price increase, you will experience a price rise of up to 10% in the next few months. Now is the time to lock in a fixed price deal if you can, at the same time having another go at those draughts....

Having to move from the Rye area after a very happy 22 years has been a big wrench for this correspondent – the reason for my resignation from the Committee – but many thanks to my fellow Committee members and the Society members as a whole for helping make it so enjoyable and productive.

2.7 *Events*

Our programme of events is based on having a Spring outing, a Summer Garden Party, a Late Summer outing and what we used to call our 'Annual Gathering' now known as our Christmas Party.

For our visits we aim to keep coach travel to less than two hours from Rye and to a light lunch. We try to make contact with the local amenity society and to invite them to give a brief introductory talk over coffee followed by guided tours on foot to see something of their conservation areas and problem sites.

We generally avoid places which are open to the general public - on the basis that if our members wish to make a visit they can make their own way at their convenience.

Our first event of the year was our Annual General Meeting held on Friday 22 April at the St Mary's Church Centre. This was followed by our Annual Lunch held at the Mermaid - and once again very good it was too. The Dining Room was filled to capacity.

On Wednesday 25 May we made a memorable visit to Canterbury: discovered the delights, both food and surroundings, of the Café du Soleil and were welcomed as members of Rye Conservation Society by the Dean of Canterbury at the commencement of Choral Evensong in the Cathedral. I am grateful to Nicky Frith, our Honorary Legal Adviser, for this write-up of the day:

"We arrived in Canterbury on a cold, damp morning to be greeted by Tim Less, Nick Blake and Clive Bowley from the Canterbury Society at the Café du Soleil, a former 18thc wool store which had been very well converted. Over coffee we learnt about the Canterbury Society which was formed over a hundred years ago but was resurrected in its present form over sixty years ago. We heard about the problems the Society has experienced with the City and the County Councils and the Planning Authority's obsession for "square blocks clad with white rendering". In some ways it was comfort but also very sad to hear that the City Planners go through the usual consultation processes then generally ignore the Society's representations, especially replacing old buildings with modern designs and materials out of keeping with the surrounding area.

After coffee we split into two groups to walk around the old City centre (surprisingly compact) to see examples of good and disappointing rebuilding and renovations. We started at the Westgate Tower, at 18m tall the largest surviving mediaeval gateway, completed in 1350, so younger than the Landgate in Rye. It was designed by Henry Yevele, the King's Master Mason, who worked on Westminster Palace from 1389 to 1391 during which time Geoffrey Chaucer was Clerk of Works to the King. The Westgate Tower which had formerly been the City Gaol has been converted into residential units with commercial units at ground level and fits in well with its surroundings.

The new Marlowe Theatre was an example of something disappointing. From a distance it seems to be covered in scaffolding but, according to our guide, it was "ladies' fishnet tights", the purpose of which was unclear, but the building was an uninspiring white rendered box with an extraordinary shaped roof which blocked out views of the Cathedral from the surrounding area.



View of Canterbury Cathedral



West Gate and River Stour

We saw historic older buildings interspersed with either modern new buildings on derelict sites. Our guide explained that the Council had made several attempts to provide a ring road and in anticipation had purchased property, much of which it still owned, as a result of the schemes being abandoned.

There was some good new building of new blocks of flats which fitted well into the street scene and some 'pastiche' developments which were either well received or hated. The Buttermarket and 41-44 Burgate which were built by the Cathedral between 1449-68 providing shops on the ground floor with lodgings for 58 pilgrims above was destroyed by a huge fire and rebuilt in neo-Tudor style in the Edwardian era. It fitted appropriately with its surroundings.

St Augustine had lived a simple monastic life when Archbishop but the Norman Archbishop Lanfranc wanted a Palace which was incorporated into part of the monastic refectory. Palace Street was 'moved over' to make room for his new Palace which after being abandoned for some time is now home to the Archbishop and the Bishop of Dover.

After an excellent lunch at Café du Soleil we made our way to the Beaney House of Art and Knowledge for a guided tour of the various sections of the museum including a large display cabinet of Victorian curiosities, an Explorers and Collectors section containing artifacts from Ancient Egypt and those unearthed during rebuilding projects in the city, one of which was the beautiful Canterbury Pendant. Other collections included a memorial to the local regiment, the Buffs, coins, glassware and paintings of people, places and local livestock. We could really have spent a whole day there.

After a reviving cup of tea we hastened to the Cathedral for Choral Evensong, which was sung beautifully by the Girls Choir with the Lay Cantor - a fitting and moving experience to end a most interesting and enjoyable day."

Nicky Frith

The Garden Party on Sunday 3 July at the home of Niki and Andy Stuart was an excellent way to spend a summer afternoon in their delightful garden and with superb food thanks to Rae Festing, Jen and David Tomkinson and Niki presiding in her own kitchen (an example of excellent modern design attached to an historic house).

Our late summer visit was planned for Brighton but it was agreed with the Brighton Society to put it into the next year and so will be the first visit of 2017 (Wednesday 31 May).

Our Christmas Party was again held in Rye Town Hall and again was very well supported by members, guests and friends, including new members. Not surprisingly, our local MP, Amber Rudd, now Home Secretary, and who for some years had regularly called in to our Parties, was unable to attend.

We also missed Rae Festing, housebound waiting for a knee operation.

We changed the occasion of the presentation of the Society's Annual Awards this year from the end of the AGM to half way through the Christmas Party. This has the advantage of having a wider audience, not delaying those attending the Annual Lunch and, for the recipients of the Awards, avoiding their working hours. (Please see the separate Report on the Awards).

Again our thanks went to Jen and David for providing an excellent choice of party food and to Kyriacos Hajikakou for selecting the wine and running the bar. All in all one of our best parties, an excellent way to be among the first of Rye's Christmas celebrations and to round off the Society's events of 2016.

John Griffiths

2.8 Rye Highways Forum: report for 2015

Sadly there has been little progress on the issues I reported last year.

Parking

Illegal parking remains a substantial problem. While the parking of trades vans in restricted areas is often necessary, 2016 has seen some major refurbishments during which what appear to have been unnecessary numbers of vans and lorries have parked up, either on double yellow lines, or in short-term parking bays or in the restricted area of the Citadel. This is acceptable if the vans contain equipment or materials that require immediate access, but householders could request that their contractors park other vehicles in the public car parking spaces, of which there are over 500 around Rye. The loading bay in the High Street outside The George is regularly occupied by unentitled vehicles. Some residents have also taken advantage of the lack of enforcement to continue to park illegally. The Highways Forum has discussed advisory ticketing; as reported last year, the police raised no objections to this, but some initial attempts have met with hostility, and a more robust system is being considered. However, it is unlikely that the problems will go away without control, which requires decriminalisation of parking. This remains on Rother District Council's agenda, as previous stipulations that all councils within East Sussex must agree appear to have been lifted. Meanwhile the police have indicated that parking issues are not a priority and will only ticket when a road is obstructed. I am sure that all RCS members park responsibly, but pressure from members on residents who do not might be helpful.

Street signage

Further attention has been drawn to the poor condition of white and yellow lining. While some significant areas have been renewed, much of the lining is indistinct, and this

contributes to the parking problems as in some areas the lines are so worn as to be invisible. Members are encouraged to report particular problems to East Sussex County Council's Highways department; this can be done through the website at <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/contact-us/report-a-problem/report-a-problem-on-a-road-path-or-verge/>

Deadman's Lane and the A259

Continuing concerns have been raised over pedestrian safety due to the lack of a footpath. However it is clear from speed analysis that vehicles do not (and cannot) travel at more than 20mph and there have been no significant incidents, on which basis ESCC cannot justify any expenditure. A local pressure group has suggested a 20mph speed limit on the A259, but as this is a trunk road such a restriction is not legal.

Secret gutters and drains

These are the gullies that cross pavements to take rainwater from downpipes, and there have been issues with damage to these. I conducted a survey of all the gutters which revealed that there are several different problems. Many are blocked, some are broken and some have been replaced with inappropriate materials. Following release of the results (available from me on request – email bamji@btinternet.com) a significant legal issue has arisen relating to responsibility for repair.

The law is not clear. Section 163 of the Highways Act 1980 makes the occupants of premises adjoining the highway liable for the maintenance of any channels, gutters or downpipes that prevent water from the premises flowing onto the highway. However, if a gutter is damaged but not obstructed, and if (as is usual) the damage has been caused by a vehicle overrunning the gutter, it appears unreasonable to expect a householder to make a repair when (a) the damage was caused by an unidentifiable third party and (b) when the causative action is likely to recur. We have sought advice from the Listed Property Owners' Club, which reports that this problem occurs in other old towns, but agrees that the legal position is confused. Further confusion is added by the fact that a Rye resident successfully took court action against ESCC after sustaining an injury from falling on a broken gutter.

We are aware of two residents who have been served with a repair order, and have advised that they should take legal advice before undertaking a repair at their own expense. However, if screw-down channel covers are simply loose it may be an easy job to source a screw locally.

The law has changed on blocked drains; this happened in 2011, but I know that many people are still unaware of the change. If a drainage pipe on private land is shared, then responsibility for clearing a blockage is no longer the landowner's but lies with the water authority, in Rye's case Southern Water. Our experience is that calls to their emergency number (0330 303 0368) are dealt with promptly and efficiently, with a same day response. Blockages are often caused by a build-up of fat/grease, or by the disposal of unsuitable objects such as wet wipes or nappies. Members who own holiday lets in Rye might add a note about this to their property information if they have not done so already.

As far as roof gutters are concerned anyone who ventures out in a rainstorm will note that there are many blockages both in gutters and downpipes. This has been highlighted in an

article from RCS in “Rye News” but members are reminded that failure to clear such blockages results in water overflow down walls and into foundations, potentially causing dampness and wood rot. The window cleaning firms in Rye offer a gutter clearing service at reasonable rates.

Cobbles

There remain areas where loose cobbles are a problem, or where road works have caused damage. ESCC has agreed a specification supplied by RCS but will not normally make small individual repairs, so if a cobbled area is seen to be backfilled with tarmac this is a temporary , and the area will have been listed for proper repair. Again, problems with cobbles should be reported through the ESCC website, as above.

Andrew Bamji

2.9 Awards 2015

During the year it was decided to present the awards at the annual Christmas Gathering held at the Town Hall. So it was fitting that the first award was given to Rye Town Council for their Town Steward initiative. The award was accepted by Deputy Mayor Michael Boyd, who thanked the Society and said that the Town Council hoped to expand on the scheme in the future.

Our second award was given to Mr & Mrs Paul Osbourne for Hawthornedene, their new house on Military Road. Although just outside of the Rye Parish boundary, the Society’s remit covers the surroundings and the setting of Rye, to which the new house was considered to contribute. Mr Osbourne received their certificate and commented that it had been a labour of love on their part.

Julian Luckett

2.10 Maritime Affairs

I can report that there is likely to be considerable change to the management of Rye Harbour within the next few years. A proposal is being put forward to the Government to transfer the management and operation of the harbour from the Environment Agency (EA) to the Canals and Rivers Trust and a decision is likely within six months. The Canals and Rivers Trust (CRT) was formerly British Waterways and is a registered charity governed by Defra. It has a large asset portfolio around Britain and has experience of running commercial harbours unlike the EA. Most members of the Harbour of Rye Advisory Committee I have spoken to see this as beneficial to continuing navigation at Rye Harbour avoiding the indecisiveness and peculiar accounting of the EA which prohibits advertising and commercial development.

Other issues in the pipeline relate to fishing and protecting fish stocks. Not only will Rye Bay become a Special Protection Area (SPA) but may be designated a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) which could prevent trawlers from fishing within a defined area. This could have a devastating effect on our fishing fleet, but is awaiting an ecological survey before the Minister decides whether it should go forward to public consultation.

John Royle

CONSTITUTION OF RYE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

1. NAME

The name of the Society shall be Rye Conservation Society.

2. AIMS and OBJECTIVES

The Society is established for the public benefit for the following purposes in the area comprising the Civil Parishes of Rye Town, Playden, Rye Foreign and East Guldeford, also the Civil Parish of Icklesham (Rye Harbour Road and Rye Harbour and Camber Castle areas only), which area shall hereinafter be referred to as "the area of benefit".

1. To protect and enhance the visual and historic environment and setting of the town of Rye and its immediate environs (see area of benefit), particularly in relation to its setting in the marsh and the quality of life therein, to the benefit of residents, visitors, businesses and their employees.
2. To stimulate public interest in the area of benefit.
3. To promote high standards of planning and architecture in the area of benefit.
4. To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features and buildings of historic or public interest in the area of benefit.

In furtherance of the said purposes but not otherwise the Society through its Executive Committee shall have the following powers:

1. To promote research into subjects directly connected with the objects of the Society and to publish the results of any such research.
2. To act as a coordinating body and to co-operate with the local authority, planning committees, sanitary, drainage and all other local and statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, charities and persons having aims similar to those of the Society.
3. To promote or assist in promoting activities of a charitable nature throughout the area of benefit.
4. To publish papers, reports and other literature in print, electronically or by any other media as deemed appropriate by the Committee.
5. To make surveys and prepare maps and plans and collect information in relation to any place, erection or building of beauty or historic interest within the area of benefit.
6. To hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions.
7. To educate public opinion and to give advice and information.

8. To raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation or otherwise; provided that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its primary purposes.
9. To take and accept any gifts or property, whether subject to any special trusts or not.
10. To sell, let, mortgage, dispose of or turn to account all or any of the property or funds of the Society as shall be necessary.
11. To borrow or raise money for the purposes of the Society on such terms and on such security as the Executive Committee shall think fit, but so that the liability of individual members of the Society shall in no case extend beyond the amount of their respective annual subscriptions.
12. To recommend to the appropriate body the listing of any building of special architectural/historic interest.
13. To subscribe to any body or organisation that, in the opinion of the Committee, furthers the causes which coincide with the Society's objectives.
14. To do all such other things as are necessary for the attainment of the said purposes.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all who are interested in furthering the purposes of the Society. No member shall have power to vote at any meeting of the Society if his subscription is in arrears at the time. Corporate members shall be such societies, associations, educational institutions or businesses as are interested in furthering the purposes of the Society. A corporate member shall appoint a representative to vote on its behalf at all meetings but, before such representative exercises his or her right to vote, the corporate member shall give particulars in writing to the Honorary Secretary of such representation. The subscriptions of a member joining the Society in the three months preceding 31 December in any year shall be regarded as covering membership for the Society's year commencing on 1 January following the date of joining the Society.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscriptions shall be:

	Annual	Life
Individual members	£6.00	£75.00
Joint subscription for two members living at the same address	£10.00	£100.00
Corporate members	£15.00	n/a

or other such reasonable sum as the Executive Committee shall determine from time to time, and it shall be payable on or before 1 January each year. Membership shall lapse if the subscription is unpaid three months after it is due.

(Rates as agreed at the 33rd AGM held on 24 April 2005).

5. MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in or about April of each year to receive the Executive Committee's Report and audited accounts and to elect Officers and Members of the Committee. The Committee shall decide when ordinary meetings of the Society shall be held and shall give **21 days' notice** of such meetings to all members. Special General Meetings of the Society shall be held at the written request of members representing not less than 10 per cent of the existing membership of the Society and whose subscriptions are fully paid up. Twenty members personally present shall constitute a quorum for a Meeting of the Society.

6. OFFICERS

Nominations for the election of officers shall be made in writing to the Secretary 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. Such nominations shall be supported by a seconder and the consent of the proposed nominee must first have been obtained. The elections of Officers shall be completed prior to the election of further Committee members. Nominees for election as Officers or Committee members shall declare at the Annual General Meeting at which their election is to be considered any financial or professional interest known or likely to be of concern to the Society.

The Officers of the Society shall consist of

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Honorary Secretary
- Honorary Treasurer
- Membership Secretary
- Chairman of the Planning Committee
- Planning Liaison

all of whom shall relinquish their office every year and shall be eligible to be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting. A President and Vice Presidents may also be elected at a General Meeting of the Society. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill casual vacancies occurring among the Officers of the Society.

7. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the management and administration of the Society. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers and not more than four other members. The Committee shall have power to co-opt further members (who shall attend in an advisory and non-voting capacity).

The President and Vice Presidents may attend any meeting of the Executive Committee but shall not vote at any such meeting. In the event of an equal number of votes being cast, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. Nominations for election to the Executive Committee shall be made in writing to the Secretary 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. They must be supported by a seconder and the consent of the proposed nominee must first have been obtained. If the nominations exceed the number of vacancies, a ballot shall take place by a show of hands unless a poll is demanded by not less than two-thirds of

those present. The Executive Committee shall meet not less than six times a year at intervals of not more than two months and the Honorary Secretary shall give all members not less than seven (7) days' notice of each meeting. The quorum shall, as near as may be, comprise one third of the members of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee may, by majority decision, expel with immediate effect until the next AGM any committee member whose actions, in the view of the Committee, are prejudicial to the best interests of the Society or who shall have, without the prior written consent of the Committee, disclosed confidential information to any third party.

8. COMMITTEES

The Executive Committee may constitute such committees from time to time as shall be considered necessary for such purposes as shall be thought fit. The Chairman and Secretary of each committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and all actions and proceedings of each committee shall be reported to and be confirmed by the Executive Committee as soon as possible. Members of the Executive Committee may be members of any committee and membership of a committee shall be no bar to appointment to membership of the Executive Committee. Committees shall be subordinate to the Executive Committee and may be regulated or dissolved by the Executive Committee.

9. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

It shall be the duty of every Officer or member of the Executive Committee or other committee who is in any way directly or indirectly interested financially or professionally in any item discussed at any Committee meeting at which he or she is present to declare such interest and he/she shall not discuss such item (except by invitation of the Chairman) or vote thereon.

10. EXPENSES OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS

The Executive Committee shall, out of the funds of the Society, pay all proper expenses of administration and management of the Society. After the payment of the administration and management expenses and the setting aside to reserve of such sums as may be deemed expedient, the remaining funds of the Society shall be applied by the Executive Committee in furtherance of the purposes of the Society.

11. INVESTMENT

All monies at any time belonging to the Society and not required for immediate application for its purposes shall be invested by the Executive Committee in or upon such investment, securities or property as it may think fit, subject nevertheless to such authority, approval or consent whether by the Charity Commissioner or the Secretary of State for Education and Science as may for the time being be required by law or by the special trusts affecting any property in the hands of the Executive Committee.

12. TRUSTEES

Any freehold and leasehold property acquired by the Society shall, and if the Executive Committee so directs, any other property belonging to the Society may be vested in trustees who shall deal with such property as the Executive Committee may from time to time direct. Any trustees shall be at least three in number or a trust corporation.

The power of appointment of new trustees shall be vested in the Executive Committee. A trustee need not be a member of the Society but no person whose membership lapses by virtue of paragraph 3 hereof shall thereafter be qualified to act as a trustee unless and until reappointed as such by the Executive Committee. The Honorary Secretary shall from time to time notify the trustees in writing of any amendment hereto and the trustees shall not be bound by any such amendments in their duties as trustees unless such notice has been given. The Society shall be bound to indemnify the trustees in their duties (including the proper charge of a trustee being a trust corporation) and liability under such indemnity shall be a proper administrative expense.

13. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting of the Society, provided that 14 days' notice of the proposed amendment has been given to all members, and provided that nothing herein-contained shall authorise any amendment the effect of which would be to cause the Society at any time to cease to be a charity in law.

14. NOTICES

Any notice required to be given by these Rules shall be deemed to be duly given if left at or sent by prepaid post addressed to the address of that member last notified to the Secretary.

15. WINDING UP

The Society may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of members voting at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Society confirmed by a simple majority of members voting at a further Special General Meeting held not less than 14 days after the previous meeting. If a motion for the dissolution of the Society is to be proposed at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting, this motion shall be referred to specifically when notice of the Meeting is given. In the event of the dissolution of the Society, the available funds of the Society shall be transferred to such one or more charitable institutions having objects similar or reasonably similar to those herein before declared as shall be chosen by the Executive Committee and approved by the Meeting of the Society at which the decision to dissolve the Society is confirmed. On dissolution, the minute books and other records of the Society shall be deposited with the East Sussex County Council Record Office.

(As amended at the 42nd AGM held on Friday 25 April 2014).

LIST OF MEMBERS

Mr & Mrs D W Adie, Mrs E Allen, Mr P Allsop, Lord & Lady Ampthill, Mr S Ashley-King, Mr & Mrs S Axbey, Mrs R D Bagley, Mr D K Bain, Mr N Bainbridge, Mrs T Baker, Mrs J I Ballantyne, Dr & Mrs A Bamji, Mrs J Barber, Dr & Mrs J P Barton, Mr G Bayntun, Mr D Bayntun, Mrs D Beswick, Mr & Mrs K Bird, Mr & Mrs L Bonnet, Mrs R Boucherat, Mr & Mrs E J Bourne, Mrs S Bowler, Mr B N Bowsher, Mr R Brigden, Mrs A Breeds, Mr & Mrs R Bromley, Mr & Mrs G Brooke, Mrs P Burgass, Ms E Butt & Mr A Blyth, The Revd & Mrs W A G Buxton, Mr & Mrs A T Champion, Mr C Chizlett, Mr R Cigman & Mr M Mark, Mrs J Clark, Mrs N S Cockayne, Mr P Collard, Mr R Comotto, Mr & Mrs S Compton, Mrs J Conlin, Mr & Mrs N Dacre, Mr & Mrs A J Davis, Mr C Dean, Mr A Dickinson, Mrs K J Digby Worsley, Mr & Mrs A C Douglas, Mr G Dowler & Mr P Warren, Mr A V Downend & Mr W Taylor, Ms Dragacevic & Mr R Gubbins, Mrs M Dunn, Mrs P Dyce, Mr G H Dyer, Ms P Earl & Mr S Lester, Mr & Mrs E Elliott, Mrs E Ellwood, Mr & Mrs T J Esdaile, Mr & Mrs R Evans, Mr & Mrs M Eve, Mr & Mrs P Ewart, Lady Eyre, Mrs R Festing, Mr K Fitz-Hugh, Dr & Mrs B N Floyd, Mr C J Foster, Ms H Foster, Maj E W Fox, Mr & Mrs N Franklin, Ms J Fraser-Hay, Mrs V Fricker and Mr M Slavin, Miss N Frith, Ms J Gayton, Miss J Gibson, Mrs M R Gillum, Mrs P Goldney, Mrs E Goldsworthy, Mr & Mrs T Gooding, Mrs I J Graham-Bryce, Mr M Gregory, Mr & Mrs J Griffiths, Mr & Mrs J Gurney, Mr & Mrs F Hadfield, Mrs J Hadfield & Mr R Martin, Mr R Haines, Mr & Mrs K Hajikakou, Miss A Hamilton, Mrs P Hamilton, Mrs Y Hamilton, Mrs E Hargreaves, Mr S Harland & Dr L A Harland, Mr J Hart, Mr & Mrs P Harvey, Mr R Hayley-Barker, Mr & Mrs R Haynes, Miss J B M Heasman, Mr & Mrs B Hodgson, Mrs J Hodgson, Mr & Mrs J Hori, Mrs M Houslander, Mr & Mrs J Howe, Dr N P Hudd, Mr & Mrs J J Huddle, Mr & Mrs K G Isted, Mr J Jempson, Mrs J Johnson, Mr M Jones & Mr K Hand, Mr & Mrs W Jones, Mr & Mrs W Kalis, Col & Mrs A Kimber, Mrs J Kirkham, Mrs P C Kneen, Mrs E Kurrein, Mrs J Lait & Mr P Jones, Mrs R A Lampon, Miss J Lampon, Mr & Mrs A Lang, Mr & Mrs J Lanigan, Mrs D Layton, Mrs J Le Fevre, Mrs M A Lingard, Mr & Mrs T Llanwarne, Mr I Lloyd, Mr J Luckett & Ms J O'Connor, Ms C Lyon, Ms S Maddock, Ms C Mallinder, Mr & Mrs D Martin Betts, Mrs D Mayor, Mr K McCarthy & Mr A Thomson, Mrs M Meacher, The Mermaid Inn, Mr & Mrs M Message, Mr & Mrs A C Mitchell-Innes, Mr N Moy, Mrs J H Moya, Mrs S Murphy, Mr & Mrs B M Nealon, Dr & Mrs W R Neilson, Mr & Mrs D H Nelson, Ms R Nelson, Mrs E D Nicol, Mr D Nixon, Mr & Mrs T Nunn, Mr B Oldman, Mr J Owen, Mrs P Owen, Mr & Mrs F Palmer, Mrs I Pearce, Mr & Mrs A J Peroy, Mr & Mrs B Phillips, Mr & Mrs J C Pilcher, Mr G Piper & Ms T Westerdale, Dr & Mrs C S Pitcher, Mr & Mrs J Pope, Mrs K Postle, Dr R Pollard, Mr J Pulford, Mr & Mrs A Reavell, Mr & Mrs S Redmond, Mrs M Robins, Mr B Robinson, Mr C Rooth, Professor B S Rosner, Mr & Mrs C Rowe, Lady Rowe, Mr & Mrs J Royle, Rt. Hon. Amber Rudd MP, Mr & Mrs L Rumjahn, Mrs P Ryan, Mrs H Simpson, Mrs J Solly, Mr J Spencer, Mrs T Starkey, Mrs H Stevenson & Mr D Bookless, Mr & Mrs D G Stone, Miss E Stone, Mr M Stott, Mr C Strangeways & Ms Z Richmond-Watson, Mr & Mrs A P Stuart, Mr & Mrs P Sumner, Mr & Mrs T Nunn, Mrs M Taylor, Ms L Thomas & Mr R Prewer, Mr & Mrs D Tomkinson, Mrs D Tournes, Mr & Mrs Trevillion, Mrs B M Tuck, Mr W Turner, Mr J Tustin & Mr P Oxley, Mr J Underwood, Mrs S Vallely, Mrs E Vere Nicoll, Mrs D Watson, Mr & Mrs I Webb-Wilson, Mr & Mrs P Wege, Mr E Wetherill, Mrs A Whately, Mr & Mrs D Wheeler, Mr K White, Mrs P White, Maj. D A C Wilkinson, Mr I R Williams, Mr M Wimbush & Mrs M Hanley, Mrs A Wood, Mr & Mrs C Wood, Mr & Mrs J Wood, Mrs E Wrenn, Mr & Mrs D Wylson, Mr A Young

DIARY DATES FOR 2017

Friday 21 April, 11.15am	Annual General Meeting St Mary's Church Centre Annual Lunch The Mermaid Inn
Wednesday 31 May	Visit to Brighton
Sunday 18 June, 2.30 - 5pm	Annual Garden Party Little Orchard House 3 West Street, Rye TN31 7ES
Late September	Visit to Tunbridge Wells
Friday 1 December, 6 - 8pm	Christmas Celebration Rye Town Hall

The Purposes of the Society

The Society was founded in 1972 and under the Constitution, which it later adopted, is concerned with the area comprising Rye Town, Playden, Rye Foreign, East Guldeford and the Rye Harbour area of the Civil Parishes of Icklesham and Camber.

The principal objects of the Society within that area are: to stimulate public interest in the area, to promote high standards of planning and architecture, and to secure the preservation, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest.

In the course of promoting its work the Society has secured registration as a charity. It is a member of the Sussex Federation of Amenity Societies, the Association of Small Historic Towns and Villages and the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

Registered Charity No 283888