

## **Rye Conservation Society Christmas Party** **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

*Merry Christmas*

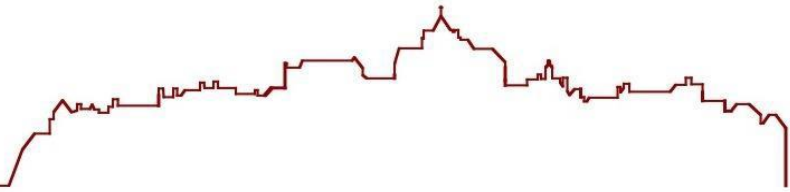


The Rye Conservation Society Christmas Party will be held on **Friday 9 December from 6pm in Rye Town Hall**. This is our first Christmas gathering since December 2019, we have been through quite a lot since then and it will be good to get together again in the Town Hall.

We are expecting Sally-Ann Hart MP; Andi Rivett, the Mayor of Rye, his consort Rebekah Gilbert; our two local Rother Councillors, Rev Howard Norton and Genette Stevens; and Keith Glazier Leader of East Sussex CC. Proceedings will be opened by the Rye Town Crier.

Selected wines, juices and locally made Mince Pies provided by Cobbles Tea Rooms will be available.

**Rye Conservation Society Christmas Party**  
**Rye Town Hall**  
**Friday December 9 2022**  
**6.00 – 8.00pm**  
**All welcome**  
**Members £5.00 Non Members £6.00**  
**Pay at door (cash only)**



Dear Member,

I am writing this just after Rye Fawkes which saw Rye full of people although sadly the anticipated firework display was lost in the fog. But there was a long and lively procession and the next day, following an impressive overnight clean-up operation, saw a large congregation in St Mary's for the Remembrance Day service and wreath laying including one from the Society.

We will soon be in the Christmas season which is the reason for this short Newsletter as we are holding our first Christmas gathering since 2019 in Rye Town Hall on Friday 9 December and very much hope to see a good turn out of members and friends for mince pies, drinks and good conversation. We have invited Andi Rivett, the Rye Town Mayor, Sally-Ann Hart MP for Rye & Hastings, Keith Glazier, Leader of East Sussex CC, and local Rother councillors.

In the past we have presented our Townscape Awards at the Christmas Party, but this time that will be deferred until our AGM in May to leave more time for consideration and nominations from members. If you see any building conversions or developments that particularly appeal to you then please get in touch with the Society.

Payment for the Party will be at the door, £5 for members cash or cheque. We will also be happy to collect subscriptions for the coming year for members renewing or from new members.

### **Planning and Townscape**

The Committee has continued to meet and comment to Rother Planning Department on planning applications. We have tried to use our influence to encourage sympathetic upgrades to Rye's historic buildings and liaise with the Rother Conservation Officer, Simon Richard about changes. In many cases there are clear guidelines but sometimes with colour schemes and the like there are reasonable differences of opinion. Clearly some purchasers of listed property need advice on planning regulations and we are looking to see how we might be able to provide this kind of information.

I also aware that energy efficiency measures are sometimes difficult to reconcile with conservation rules. For example double glazing often falls foul of these rules which arguably may be outdated, but in any event need to be discussed given the rising cost of energy and the climate crisis. For further information there is quite a lot of sensible advice on the Historic England web site about insulating old buildings. Given the historic importance of Rye it is unlikely that major changes to the fabric or look of old buildings could be supported and for that reason solar panels are unlikely to be approved.

I have been heartened by some of the sensitive restoration work being done on the buildings near me in the Mint. I think that the Mint in general looks much smarter than a few years ago and credit is due to some of the owners and architects. We have concerns about the proliferation of holiday lets but can at least be pleased that the town is mostly well looked after by its residents.

With Best Wishes for the Christmas season,

*David Bookless, Chairman*