



Newsletter

December 2020

No 69

Dear Rye Conservation Society member,

I would like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year. We all very much wish that 2021 will see a return to more normal times after all the difficulties of 2020. For the Society we very much hope that we can soon again meet up 'face to face' and restart our social and educational activities. I thank all of you for remaining members of the Society and supporting our work to keep Rye a beautiful town. I apologise that we were unable to hold our usual festive Christmas Party in the Town Hall, but hope that you appreciate our Christmas card featuring roof tops of Rye, designed by Michael Stott, a member of our committee, and printed by Adams.

We are lucky in Rye to have lovely Christmas lights and interesting shops who have put on special window displays this week, congratulations are due to all concerned who have brightened up Rye at a difficult time.

David Bookless

Chairman

RCS Awards

Each year the Society likes to make a number of Awards for buildings or works which have improved the appearance of Rye and its surroundings. Our recent Annual Report covered the Awards made last year and presented at the Town Hall Christmas Party, including an Award for the refurbished signal box presented to Network Rail and one for the newly redesigned Waterworks Inn. We are now inviting nominations for the 2020 Rye Conservation Society Awards.

Proposals will be welcome for the following:

- **A new building of architectural merit**
- **An alteration or refurbishment of an existing building**
- **The re-use of an historic building for a new purpose**
- **A good example of sensitive redecoration and use of colour**
- **Repair using and demonstrating craft skills.**

The Executive Committee will consider suitable entries and Awards will be presented in the New Year, hopefully at our AGM in the Spring.

Suggestions need to be submitted 31 January 2021.

They should be sent, preferably by email, to the Chairman: David Bookless ryeconservation@gmail.com (or by post to 3 Faraday House, The Mint, Rye TN31 7EW).

Membership Subscriptions

Just a reminder for those who are annual members and who pay by cash or cheque their annual subscription for 2021 is due from January 1st. The Committee are grateful for your ongoing support and hope that 2021 will present a return to something more normal!

Subs remain at £6 for a single person or £10 for joint membership. Could you please drop the cash or cheque (payable to Rye Conservation Society) around to Andy Stuart, the Society's membership secretary at: Little Orchard House, 3 West St, Rye TN31 7ES.

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)

Since our annual report update, Controlled Parking Enforcement is now in place and, so far, appears to have been effective at controlling the worst excesses of illegal parking on and around the High Street. It has also ensured a steady throughput and consequent availability of parking spaces. We continue to liaise with the Town Council and East Sussex to ensure that the more intrusive and, sometimes, hazardous sign installations are put right.

Working with Rye Town Council, we have also commented on East Sussex Council's draft walking and cycling infrastructure plan. This plan had not prioritised any schemes for Rye, we have highlighted the need to invest in infrastructure improvements on two key routes through the town.

We have continued to liaise with East Sussex Highways to ensure sensitive repair of our listed, cobbled streets which in some areas, for example on Conduit Hill, have started to badly deteriorate creating hazard.

Sandrock Marine Development

This has recently been approved by Rother. It remains our view that the parking provision is inadequate and not in line with ESCC stated requirement of 1 space for 5 sq.m of public restaurant space. ESCC have stated that in their view their own standard is excessive for a Town Centre area. WE would suggest that given its location it is not a town centre area, although on a map it may appear to be.

What is not picked up is that the public area does not change and that they have just reduced the number of seats drawn on the plan. What is to stop whoever runs it in the future just putting in more tables. That is why the parking requirement is based on an area not the number of covers.

The upshot is that we have consent for two restaurants this one, and that proposed at the Riverside as part of the Bridgepoint Studios. If you calculate the relevant areas both inside and out on the terraces you will see that against ESCC standards the parking is inadequate and is likely impose pressure on the surrounding area if both restaurants are successful.

Conservation Society Archives

The Society has used lockdown to sort out its archived documents which were in store. There is a wealth of material which could be of interest to members and we will seek to issue a summary in readable form. For example there are papers concerning the A259 bypass mooted in the 1980s. There were plans for the Marina development in the early 1990s and coverage of the battle to save railway sheds where Jempsons now stands. The RCS began life as the Rye Preservation Society in 1972 (no links with the Kinks as far as we know!). We will be sorting and cataloguing the material in the coming months and make some of it available on the web site