

Rye
Conservation
Society

Annual Report
2015

RYE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

OFFICERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CONSULTANTS 2015

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.u*
Rae Festing BEM, Assistant Events; 01797 223952

Executive Committee Members

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

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

Front cover: Church Square showing replacement cobbles. See more information under the report on 'Awards'.

RYE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**NOTICE OF THE FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
to be held in St Mary's Church Centre, Rye, at 11.15am on Friday 22 April 2016**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 17 April 2015
3. Matters arising
4. Reports from the Chairman and Officers; other reports
5. Treasurer's Report and approval of Accounts for the year 2015
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.

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1. Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting, 17 April 2015

The 43rd Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at St Mary's Church Centre, Rye, on Friday 17 April 2015, chaired by Mr John Griffiths and attended by 50 members and guests.

1.1 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Andrew Blyth, Rosemary Boucherat, Liz Butt, Pamela and Paddy Buxton, Nadia Cockayne, Peter and Joyce Dyce, Ian and Elizabeth Graham-Bryce, Jonathan Jempson, Peter Jones, Col and Mrs Anthony Kimber, Ella Kurrein, Jacqui Lait, Jodie Lefevre, Alistair and Penny Mitchell-Innes, Jacky Solly, Niki Stuart, Jen and David Tomkinson and Eugenie Vere Nicoll.

1.2 Minutes of the 42nd AGM

These were approved; there were no matters arising.

1.3 Chairman's Report

The Chairman wanted to thank all the Society's Committee members for their contributions over the year. The Planning Committee met every two weeks and did an excellent job, reviewing planning applications and giving their views to Rye Town Council and Rother District Council. The Executive Committee met every four weeks and communicated very regularly via email between meetings; emails could be seen as both a blessing and a curse, in his opinion.

He spoke about the filming of Mapp and Lucia over the previous summer and said that Rye should have received an Oscar for the best location. The general effect of the repainting of some buildings in the town had been to improve the overall look of the place; it was a pity they had been returned to their original colours. His particular *bête noire* was Brilliant White. In his view the lighting of Rye should be taken over by a stage lighting director.

The Chairman invited committee members to give their reports.

Andy Stuart, Publicity and Membership

Andy requested that those who pay annual subscriptions should consider becoming life members. Fewer newsletters had been produced during the year but they were much fuller; he paid tribute to the Chairman for the role he played in getting the newsletter set out and printed; Andy felt that the Chairman was a combination of Boris Johnson and Eddie Shah. The only machine he did not have was one to stuff envelopes. Andy was very grateful to all who delivered newsletters and apologised for having left Helen Griffiths off the list of those who did so, in his annual report contribution.

Both RyeNews and the Rye Observer had been very helpful in giving publicity to various Society activities.

Julian Lockett, Chairman of the Planning Committee

The single most important change to the planning environment affecting Rye was the adoption in late September 2014 by Rother District Council of the Core Strategy 2013-2028 which set out the basis against which future planning in Rye and Rother as a whole would be determined. The delay in agreeing the Core Strategy was due mainly to the planning inspector's demand that Rother should address central government's requirement for additional housing. In the case of Rye, this meant that a further 200 dwellings had to be planned for Rye and Rye Harbour between now and 2028, in addition to those already approved. Where these were to be located would form a major part of the Neighbourhood Plan currently being developed.

Since Rother considered the possible areas for future housing, two issues had arisen which might affect these plans. The first was the withdrawal of Sainsbury's and Tesco's from any supermarket development on the site of the old Thomas Peacocke School. This location was now in play again, either as a site for a new Rye College or for housing. Julian felt that criticism of Rother for not including the site on the Register of Community Interests was unwarranted. In his view they had no choice as it did not meet the legal definition, having been vacant for so long. He felt it was still a good idea for the School to use the site if they were able purchase it; the Society had written in support of this.

The second factor potentially affecting future housing considerations was the recent report accompanying the refusal at appeal of the application for the old Gristmill site on Winchelsea Road. The Society had objected strongly to the scheme and was pleased that the inspector's views dovetailed with both its and Rother's concerns. The inspector's report would give clear guidance on the development of this important area of Rye and, by extension, Rock Channel.

There was no doubt that development of these areas would happen. The Bridge Point scheme had been given consent and a planning application for the part of Rock Channel owned by Bournes was awaited. With an improved rail service and better internet connections, pressure on development in Rye would only increase. The Society stood ready to play an active role in ensuring that any development was appropriate for this unique historic town whilst ensuring that it had a viable future for all its inhabitants.

Julian ended by reiterating his thanks to all the members of the planning committee for their time, local knowledge and expertise and for helping to steer him through the potentially turbulent waters of Rye and its surroundings.

John Pope, Planning Liaison Officer

In his Annual Report contribution, John had referred to cuts in the Rother Planning Enforcement staff; these had no doubt had an impact on the Society's attempts to have minor planning breaches remedied. However, John reported that late last year an officer was appointed whose brief included Rye and District; John was pleased to say that this officer was proving to be an industrious and sympathetic addition to the Rother team. He had been particularly keen to monitor developments south of Rock Channel, so John felt that the Society could look forward a little more optimistically to future dealings with the Department. He was glad to report that the shrubbery at the Watchbell Street Look-out and at Hilders Cliff had been sympathetically reduced following the Society's negotiations with Rother last year.

This being John's last report to members, he wanted to say how grateful he was to have had the opportunity to serve on the Society's Executive Committee over the last 12 years. It had been an invariably happy and fulfilling experience, working with a group of very pleasant people, going back to Paul, Robert and Kenneth up to the present, with John and Rae providing continuity and support for the whole of this period. His thanks were due to all these, and to the members for their vigilance and co-operation. John wanted to single out Pamela Burgass and Pamela Pettigrew, not just for their reportage, but also for assiduously monitoring the problems. He also wanted to thank his wife Sylvia for getting him interested and involved in conservation matters in the first place.

John finished his report by commenting that members would be able to imagine the fierce competition that ensued for his job as the Planning Liaison representative. He was more than happy that Wayne Jones emerged from the short list as winner. John felt that Wayne would be extremely effective, and said that he had his good wishes and support.

Mike Slavin, Community Energy

Mike Slavin commented that his role covered both energy conservation and generation. The first solar array in the area had been commissioned the day before near the Harbour Office. He felt that this fitted in well and that many more of these would be seen over the next few years. Five local projects had been identified which would benefit the community. It was essential to reduce the carbon footprint of Rye, which was very high.

John Griffiths, Events

The Chairman was by tradition the organiser of events; this dated back to the time of the late Paul Blomfield, when the primary concern and starting point had been where to have lunch. John said that the Society's aim for excursions was to go to places which were not open to the general public or where, as a group, the Society could get a guided tour or make contact with a local society to show our group around and get local advice on where to eat. Last year the Society visited Deal where there had been an excellent guided tour of the town followed in the afternoon by a visit to Walmer Castle, again with a guided tour. The annual Garden Party was in the fascinating garden of Niki and Andy Stuart with help, once again, from Rae Festing and Jen Tomkinson. The Chairman wanted to thank all involved. The autumn visit had been to Sandwich and the secret gardens of Salutation House. The visit to Sandwich had been successful, though it had depended on which guide you had, one being particularly interested in the sewerage systems of the town. He was grateful to Jean Floyd and Irene Jones for writing excellent reports of the visits. As part of Rye Arts Festival, the Society had sponsored as a speaker Philip Venning, the recently retired Secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, who had spoken about the work of the Society. In December the Society's Christmas Party took place in the Town Hall. The Chairman reported that there were two places left on the forthcoming visit to Standen Hall and Ditchling Museum.

Andrew Bamji, Highways Forum

Andrew reported very considerable success with the mending of cobbles, further to a meeting he and Julian Luckett had attended with ESCC highways and their reinstatement contractors. The contractors were now following the guidelines for repair put together by Julian some time ago. Andrew commented that most cobbled areas in the town were in fact Listed. Two repairs undertaken recently were very satisfactory, and in general the utility companies undertaking works which required subsequent reinstatement were supportive.

A Facebook page criticising parking in Rye had recently taken off; as everyone knew there was risk to pedestrians and damage to the street scene by illegal parking. While parking on the pavement was illegal, the police were not apparently interested. It was necessary to decriminalise parking and this might mean the installation of meters. Kenneth Bird commented that it was not necessary to have parking meters installed, motorists could buy parking tickets. Gill Wood suggested renting a local field for a park and ride scheme; Andrew would raise this at a Forum meeting. It was suggested that Gibbets Marsh car park be better used; improved signage would help. Most of the parking offenders in the town were locals rather than visitors and they could be abusive when challenged. When HS1 eventually reached Rye, there would be more parking at the station as coaches would be moved to Gibbets Marsh.

John Royle, Maritime

John reported that the new navigational buoys were not a great success and would be replaced by lit posts with a transponder on a beacon at the harbour entrance. New pontoons were to be installed at Strand Quay.

1.4 Treasurer's Report

The Chairman invited Diana Hajikakou to give her report. Diana said that members would have been pleased to see in the annual accounts that the Society's financial position remained satisfactory and that once again there was a surplus of income over expenditure. She said that members continued to enjoy and support the events and outings organised by the Society and hoped that this would continue. She asked that members should encourage any friends of theirs who had not already joined to do so in order that the Society's subscription income remained buoyant.

She wanted to thank David Bookless for having audited the accounts but, as he was about to move into a higher sphere, she was delighted that Mervyn Hayes, Chairman of Northiam Conservation Society, had very kindly agreed to take on this role in future. She asked that his appointment be approved.

There being no questions on the accounts, they were unanimously approved, proposed by Nicky Frith and seconded by Kenneth Bird. The appointment of Mervyn Hayes as Independent Examiner was proposed by John Griffiths, seconded by Kenneth Bird and unanimously approved.

1.5 Election of Officers

John Pope had been the Society's Planning Liaison Officer for twelve years since March 2003 and Vice Chairman for the past four years, he would be standing down from both posts. The Chairman wanted to pay tribute to John for undertaking what he had described as the most difficult job in the Society. John had to work with the Enforcement Officer of Rother District Council and had dealt with members who have complaints as well as dealing with building owners and occupiers in Rye. John had willingly undertaken this role while living in Northiam. The Chairman was delighted that Wayne Jones had agreed to take his place as Planning Liaison Officer. Judith O'Connor had been Honorary Secretary for the past four years; she had been responsible for the smooth running of the Society and for drafting difficult letters on behalf of the Society. The Chairman was delighted that David Bookless had agreed to take over as Honorary Secretary. No new nominations for membership of the Executive Committee had been received.

So with the exception of John Pope and Judith O'Connor 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
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
Committee Members, Andrew Bamji, Rae Festing

These appointments were approved unanimously, proposed by Rosemary Bagley and seconded by John Royle.

The Chairman now wished to propose that David Bookless be appointed Hon Secretary and Mike Stott become a member of the Executive Committee. David's appointment was proposed by Kenneth Bird and seconded by Andrew Bamji; Mike's appointment was proposed by Rosemary Bagley and seconded by Rae Festing. With the retirement of John Pope, the position of Vice Chairman of the Society was vacant and it was proposed that Julian Lockett be appointed to the post, though this did not mean that he would necessarily become chairman. Julian's appointment was proposed by Liz Bamji and seconded by Mike Slavin. It was unanimously agreed that John Pope should be made a Vice President, a position which he was honoured to accept.

1.6 Awards

The Chairman invited Julian Lockett to make the 2015 awards.

Certificates of merit, for contributing to and improving the appearance of Rye by the excellent presentation of their premises, were awarded to Amanda Bheir of the Café on the Quay, Lucy Forrester of the Café des Fleurs and Scott Brotherton of The Standard Inn.

KT and Martin Bruce received a Certificate of Merit for contributing to and improving the appearance of Rye Harbour by the excellent presentation of their house The Saltings, Tram Road, Rye Harbour.

A Craftsmanship Award was presented to Southern Gas Networks and to their contractors, CLC Ltd, for the reinstatement of cobbles in Church Square. This was accepted by Daniel Johnston, Rodney Johnston and Ian Kennard of CLC.

The Townscape Award 2015 was presented to the Fletcher in Rye CIC for a major contribution to life in Rye by the re-use and refurbishment of the historic schoolrooms as Kino Digital. Hugh Kermode and Mike Eve accepted this award, and Rob Pollard of Jonathan Dunn architects was also congratulated. Mike Eve said that it had been a huge effort by a huge number of people, 40 individuals had made financial contributions which had allowed the project to go ahead, Kino itself had made a huge investment and ESCC had given a grant of £100,000. The project was in the running for other awards. Tributes were paid to the late Charlie Parsons and to Freddie Lees for their major contributions to the project. Hugh Kermode commented that all those who had objected in the past had apologised, or were using Kino regularly.

1.7 Any other Business

Flowers were presented to Helen Griffiths to thank her for many years' involvement in committee meetings. Helen would be standing down from doing the minutes of Executive Committee meetings with the appointment of the new Secretary. Many thanks were given to Rae Festing for all her help over the year. There being no other business, the AGM closed at 12.15 and most of those present adjourned to The Mermaid Inn for the Annual Lunch.

David Bookless/ Judith O'Connor
May 2015

2. Rye Conservation Society Forty-fourth Annual Report for 2015

2.1 *Chairman's Report*

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

After five years as Hon. Secretary Judith O'Connor gave us good notice that she would like to stand down at the April AGM. I 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 welcome 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 Lockett 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 at the April AGM we were delighted that Wayne Jones agreed to take on the post.

Sadly this report contains 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.

John Griffiths

2.2 *Membership and Publicity Report*

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.

Andy Stuart

2.3 *Treasurer's Report*

I am pleased to be able to report to members that, as in recent years, the Society is in a sound position financially. There has been a surplus of income over expenditure of £775.29. The accounts show that the subscription income is very similar to last year and the events and outings remain popular and well supported.

The balance sheet as of 31st December 2015 appears on the following pages.

Diana Hajikakou.

RYE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2015

Assets at 31.12.15	£	
Bank balance Lloyds TSB	2982.76	
Charity Deposit Account	11017.09	
Less debts (1)	<u>151.10</u>	
Total Assets	13848.75	

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2014 AND 2015

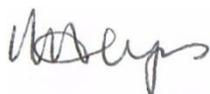
Income	2015	2014
Events and Outings	4081.64	4120.47
Subscriptions	979.00	978.00
Donations	18.50	30.00
Gift Aid	144.00	192.07
COIF Interest	49.44	46.29
Total Income	5272.58	5366.83
Income minus Expenditure	775.29	577.57

Notes

- (1) Uncashed Cheques

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015 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 2015 and have compared them with the books and vouchers supplied. In my opinion they are correct and in accordance.



Independent Examiner Mervyn Hayes

Date: 28 January 2016

Assets at 31.12.14	£
Bank balance Lloyds TSB	2473.48
Charities Deposit Account	10967.65
Less debts (1)	<u>345.77</u>
Total Assets	13095.36

Expenditure	2015	2014
Events & Outings	2458.63	2500.95
Affiliation Fees	105.00	105.00
Insurance	190.00	190.00
Printing/Stationery	90.47	234.10
Post/Telephone	100.95	87.49
Administration	9.99	
AGM/Awards	1290.26	1381.20
Sundries	251.99	290.52
Total Expenditure	4497.29	4789.26

2.4 Planning Committee Report

2015 began with the opening of Kino and ended with the completion of 53 Cinque Ports Street, the former Central Garage site. Open now for over a year, Kino is viewed by just about everyone as both an architectural and a cultural success and this was marked in April when the Society awarded it a RCS Townscape 'Brick', which was then followed by an RIBA award and one from Sussex Heritage Trust.

Whilst Kino has met with general approval, the new building on Cinque Ports Street has divided opinion and has led some to question the appropriateness of 'modern' design in a historic context such as Rye.

What is or is not appropriate was also highlighted by the refusal on appeal of the proposed building on the former Gristmill site on Winchelsea Road. The Society had opposed the application on the grounds of design and over-development and was pleased not only by the decision but also by the inspector's comments, which will be helpful in combating future second-rate proposals.

The importance of the future development of the riverside has been brought into focus by the proposals for Rock Channel. The Society welcomes appropriate development along the Tillingham and on Rock Channel but objected to the specific application for the Bourne's site. The scheme generally followed the proposals contained in the unadopted 2007 Rother Rock Channel Development Brief. The Society believes this to be too formalist, internally inconsistent and in need of revision to take into account changes in flood protection requirements, actual land ownership and consents already granted such as that for Bridge Point. In addition the Society believes that the views across the site from both the Citadel and surroundings need to be considered in greater detail and with more imagination. The Society was pleased that the application was withdrawn at the end of the year to allow the architects to reconsider their approach. It is hoped this will address some if not all of the points we have made to date.

The other major issue that we have considered has been the future of the Landgate, a Grade I listed building and Ancient Monument. After having tried without success over several years to gain access to the Landgate to ascertain its condition, we were pleased when Rother commissioned a report from Thomas Ford & Partners, the conservation architects. When finally released by Rother in October the report indicated that, although the structure was basically sound, a programme of works was required to limit continuing deterioration and to ensure a safe future for this iconic gateway to Rye. Following the report, a meeting of interested parties was held which included members of our Executive Committee, Rye Town Council, Rother District Council and others to consider a way forward. Rother is seeking to hand over ownership, and therefore future responsibility for and maintenance of the Landgate, to another body, such as Rye Town Council. The Society's view is that there is little chance of a use being found for the renovated Landgate due to its limited size, restricting plan and dangerous access and that Rother should face up to its responsibility and set in train a programme of fund-raising and renovation.

The development of the Rye Neighbourhood Development Plan continues and the Society commented in detail on Revision 6. Our comments appeared to have 'crossed' with those of Rother and of the outside consultants appointed to consider the draft. This has resulted in a much-amended Rev. 7 which is itself currently being revised. The Society has decided to

await a final revised draft of the Plan and of the accompanying Design Statement before commenting further.

To many, planning is an obstacle to be overcome and an irritant but it should be remembered that it is the mechanism by which society governs change within the built environment on behalf of, in our case, the whole of Rye. The planning officers have to apply the agreed policies, in the case of Rother those contained in the 2014 Core Strategy. It is when issues arise relating to aesthetic considerations, such as how a new development may affect a listed building, that views may and do differ. Our Planning Committee will continue to judge each application on its merits and, where it considers the project to be of significant importance such as that for Rock Channel, it will refer it for consideration by the Executive Committee.

The number of planning applications considered by the Planning Committee has fallen again this year but I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their time, input and sometimes sharp and pertinent comments. Sadly Roger Breeds passed away in February (See Obituaries) and his detailed knowledge of Rye, its history and its personalities is greatly missed.

Julian Lockett

2.5 Planning Liaison Report

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 in need of attention. One such example is the often overlooked pump in Church Square (Pump Street). Lying in the shadow of the cistern, 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. (Members may not have noticed the dated and decorated early 19th hopper inside). We have ongoing meetings with the Conservation Officer and are hopeful for success.

Wayne Jones

2.6 Energy

There have been major changes in the last 12 months in the energy landscape nationally as the result of big shifts in Government strategy. In contrast to the optimistic notes of the Annual Report last year for community energy, the last 12 months has been very disappointing, the five projects we had identified, either being cancelled because either they were not financially viable under the new regime or massively scaled down. The only survivor has been the project at Rye Academy for a solar installation on the Studio School, completed near the end of 2015.

We are hoping, and planning for, the evolution of a much more stable energy strategy nationally because the basic needs have not gone away – carbon emissions and climate change are still extraordinarily important strategic issues. Locally the national strategy changes are leading us to concentrate on energy conservation, improving the availability of support services to those in energy difficulties.

Mike Slavin

2.7 Events

Annual General Meeting and Annual Lunch, Friday 17 April 2015

On Friday 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 - and very good it was too. The Dining Room was filled to capacity.

Visit to Standen House and Ditchling Museum of Arts + Crafts, Friday, 22 May 2015.

I am most grateful to Gill Wood who has provided this commentary on our day.

We approached Standen along a narrow, winding lane down to a broad green enclosed by the estate buildings and the original, tiled farmhouse, which is still used as a service wing.

After a short introduction, we walked through the simple gateway to the courtyard of the main house. Standen is essentially a family home, totally unpretentious, but nestling into the Sussex hills with spectacular views over the Ashdown forest.

The architect Philip Webb designed the house in the Arts and Crafts style in 1891 for James Beale, a wealthy London solicitor. He used local sandstone quarried from behind the house, local bricks and tiles, and retained the existing buildings on the site. The rooms are light and

spacious with plain panelling complementing the colours of the William Morris design and contemporary Arts and Crafts furniture. Mrs Beale and her family, including grandchildren, were expert needle women and the house is full of their work.



Helen, their last surviving daughter, acted as custodian for the family trust and approached the National Trust in 1971. They were initially reluctant to take on the house as it was insufficiently endowed, but Arthur and Helen Grogan stepped in, paid a generous sum for a long lease and undertook extensive restoration.

I had not visited Standen for several years and was impressed by the work done by the NT to both house and garden. It was a delight. After a delicious lunch there we boarded the coach for Ditchling and the Arts + Crafts museum.

The village of Ditchling nestles in the South Downs and was home to The Guild of St Joseph and St Dominic, an Arts and Crafts community started by the sculptor and letter cutter Eric Gill and his apprentice Joseph Cribb in 1921 (although Gill had lived in the village since 1907). They were later joined by calligrapher Edward Johnson, designer of the London Underground font, and printer and woodblock cutter Hilary Peplar. The Guild continued to thrive after Eric Gill left Ditchling in 1924, being joined by many weavers, painters, and sculptors over the years, but was finally wound up in 1987.

The small museum was started in 1985 by sisters Joanna and Hilary Bourne, who had been collecting memorabilia from the time when they had been children and had grown up knowing many of the artists and craftsmen of the Guild. The museum was reopened in September 2013 following major refurbishment and the addition of a very attractive modern extension. It won an Arts Fund award in 2014.

We were given a short guided tour of the museum, which includes many examples of the work of the Guild members and other notable members of the Arts and Crafts movement. The examples of equipment from Hilary Peplar's print shop, including the cases of "Caslon" type, brought back many memories to this visitor, whose grandfather was a printer! The two garden rollers, carved by Eric Gill with a young couple on each end "rolling in the grass",

are a gem. Also included are later works by famous Ditchling residents, such as a temporary display of Roland Emmett's fascinating "magical machines".



The story of the discovery of work by the "unknown" wood carver and designer Mary Dudley Short was intriguing. There are many examples of her work in the museum, but very little is known about her or her connection with the Guild members, although she was a contemporary of Gill and Johnson.

Following this, our guides took us to the nearby 11th century church of St Margaret's, which had been decorated with many examples of Arts and Crafts work. We were then free to explore the museum and village at leisure.

Once again, thanks to John and Helen for a meticulously researched and interesting day.

Gill Wood

Annual Garden Party, Sunday 14 June.

We were grateful to Niki and Andy Stuart for the use of their delightful garden and their kitchen/dining room all of which could well have been designed to accommodate a garden party. Grateful too to Rae Festing and Jen Tomkinson for organising and preparing the food and drinks. Our thanks also to Diana Hajikakou for manning the box office and welcoming our members and visitors. We do not run the garden party to raise funds but like to see our expenses covered.

It was good to see so many people visiting Little Orchard House in West Street - members, their guests and visitors to Rye.

Visit to Ramsgate, The Grange and St. Augustine's Church, Wednesday 30 September.

I am most grateful to Allan Downend who has written the following description of the day's event and to Kenneth Bird for the illustrations.

Gothic ramble around Ramsgate by Allan Downend

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.

They then visited The Grange, home of Augustus Pugin (1812- 1852) and also his St Augustine's Church next door. Pugin's most famous work is, of course, the interior of the Palace of Westminster.

En route, Jane Fraser Hay pointed out the village of Minster and told us its interesting history, so that at a future date we may care to visit it for ourselves. On arrival at Ramsgate we walked along the sea wall, which gave splendid views of the town and the Regency and later 19th century terraces that show the town's fashionable past.

We were then guided along the divide between the inner and outer harbour (shown below) and shown how boats docked and also how in the past, the silt and mud that accumulated were flushed away. This also related to how Rye needs to keep ensuring the silt does not accumulate.



A general view of Ramsgate Harbour

We viewed the Sailors' Church before walking back to the centre of the town for a delicious lunch, in a very interesting restaurant with a rather pavilion like interior.

After lunch we set off for The Grange, the house Pugin built for his family. It was completed in 1844, when Pugin was at the height of his fame as the leader of the gothic revival and he had decided to live in Ramsgate for various reasons



Interior of The Grange, Pugin's home at Ramsgate

He had happy memories of holidays in the town, where a favourite aunt had lived; he liked the sea and sailing and there were good communications to both London and the continent, and lastly, as a Catholic convert, he wanted to be near the site where St Augustine landed in 597 AD.

When building his house he envisaged not only the house, but also a Catholic parish church together with a Benedictine monastery. Inside we had an excellent guide, who introduced us to Pugin's idea that you designed houses from the inside to the out.

The rooms were domestic and had been restored with Pugin's wallpaper, with his motto, *en avant*, as part of the decoration. The colours were rich reds, blues and greens, befitting a person wanting to return to the Middle Ages.

After he died his son followed as an architect in the same style and built the famous Granville Hotel in the town as well as other buildings. His son Cuthbert was the last of the family to live at the house and he died in 1928.

Next we visited the church which was built over time at his own expense. Pugin used flints for the outside and sandstone for the interior. He very much wanted to return to the high standard of stained glass as seen in the medieval period and in this he was helped by his collaboration with John Hardman of Birmingham.

This firm stayed in that family, with John Hardman Powell becoming Pugin's son-in-law and today it still trades as Pugin, Hardman & Powell. There is some restoration work to be done in the church, in that the rood screen is to be put back and the choir stalls arranged to Pugin's original design.

Tea followed with the cakes reflecting Pugin's rich and sumptuous approach to stained glass. Shall we see a rival of Pugin design in Rye after this visit? We shall wait and see. All our thanks went to John and Helen Griffiths for organising such an excellent day out.

Christmas Celebration: Friday 4 December from 6 pm to 8 pm.

We again held our Christmas Celebration in the Council Room of Rye Town Hall and again 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 missed our usual visit from our Member of Parliament, Amber Rudd, who, as a Minister of State, was in Paris with the Prime Minister

but were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Rye, Bernadette Fiddimore and the Mayor of Winchelsea, John Spencer.

The event was well attended and it was good to see so many members and guests enjoying themselves.

John Griffiths

2.8 Rye Highways Forum: report for 2015

The Forum has considered a number of issues over the last year. Regrettably the police representatives were withdrawn following changes to their deployment. The Forum has expressed its disappointment that parking enforcement is no longer a priority (see below). However there have been some successes.

1. Strategy for Deadman's Lane

Vehicles exiting the new development had been turning out towards Rye Hill. A "One Way" sign has now been installed. There has been concern over pedestrian safety due to the absence of pavements. A traffic survey was carried out indicating that the average vehicle speed along the Lane was quite slow, and therefore that the risk of an accident was too low to trigger any major widening or provision of a pavement – which would in any case be almost impossible due to the topography. Trimming of the overhanging vegetation had helped and it was understood that the Town Steward would keep an eye on this.

2. Limited waiting by cash machines

The corner of West Street with the High Street is a major source of illegal parking. Bollards to prevent pavement parking cannot be introduced because the pavement width is inadequate, and widening would interfere with the (listed) road surface. The Society 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. It also enabled the provision of a loading bay at that end of the High Street. It was considered that by making West Street effectively one way at its northern part the number of vehicles parking by the cashpoints would be reduced. However the Forum received technical details from Brian Banks (Highways Department, ESCC) indicating that the costs of consultation would be very high. The Town Council is now considering this report.

3. Improvements by Rye Station

There has been discussion on the provision of a new crossing in Station Approach, but this is technically difficult, and again there are no statistics to show that there is a serious hazard

4. White line painting

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

5. Rope Walk

The appalling state of the road surface has now been rectified

6. Secret gutters

Concern continues over the state of secret gutters in Rye, particularly where they are a trip hazard. RCS is conducting a survey which is in progress.

7. Parking

There remain major problems with parking in Rye. These include 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). There are both risks and degradation of the environment. Charging in Jempson's car park has moved vehicles to the Market car park. The Forum has 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 while local residents remained aware that there was none.

As an addendum to this report I should note that a town meeting convened by the Mayor to discuss parking on March 3rd 2016 was attended by the Police Commissioner, two senior officers and Rother Council members. The strength of feeling in the town was evident but it is possible that, were Rother to agree to parking decriminalisation, interim policing might resume. The Chief Superintendent indicated that there was a police-sponsored committee structure to discuss issues, which in Rye's case could be constructed through the Highways Forum, and the Mayor will take this forward. The police also indicated that advisory ticketing was permissible.

Andrew Bamji

2.9 Awards 2015

The 2015 TOWNSCAPE AWARD

To the Fletcher Group for the redevelopment and sympathetic reuse of Victorian Infants School buildings, more recently used as a public Library and Adult Education Centre in Lion Street, Rye. An excellent example of the conservation of an historic building and the introduction of good modern design and contemporary materials.

The 2015 CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARD*

To Clint Taylor of Southern Gas Network and contractors CLC Ltd for the reinstatement of cobbles in Church Square. The work was completed on time and in accordance with the specification supplied by Rye Conservation Society and East Sussex County Council. For some years the Rye Conservation Society has been trying to improve the ways in which cobbles have been replaced after works to services beneath the road have been carried out.

The Chairman of our Planning Committee, Julian Luckett, took on the task of looking into the problem. He found that the specification Rother District Council was using when

instructing contractors was at fault. He drew up a revised specification and obtained Rother's agreement to use the revision. Following some bad examples of replacement work it was discovered that, although the revised specification had been agreed, it was not filtering down to the men carrying out the actual work. The Society informed Rother.

So it was to the satisfaction of the Society to see excellent replacement work carried out in Church Square (shown in the foreground of our picture). As a result the Society decided to give the contractors, CLC Ltd and their employers, Southern Gas Network, its 2015 Craftsmanship Award and so at last year's AGM representatives and the men who had carried out the actual work came to receive their certificates in person.

2015 CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Café on the Quay, Rye.

Presented to Amanda Bheir for choice of colours and quality of sign writing for contributing to and improving the appearance of Rye by excellent presentation of their premises at Café on the Quay, Rye.

2015 CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

The Saltings, Tram Road, Rye Harbour.

Presented to KT and Martin Bruce for the meticulous restoration and careful modernisation of this house which is at an eye catching site at the end of Tram Road. It sets a high standard for others to follow.

2015 CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Café des Fleurs

Presented to Lucy Forrester for contributing to and improving the appearance of Rye by excellent presentation of their premises Café des Fleurs at Rye Station

2015 CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Standard Inn

Presented to Scott Brotherton for contributing to and improving the appearance of Rye by excellent presentation of their premises at the Standard Inn, Rye

* Our front cover shows the importance of cobbles in the streets of Rye. They are listed Grade II and as such, like listed buildings, they may not be altered in any way without Listed Consent from Rother District Council.

2.10 *Maritime Affairs*

Vessel movements in and out of the port of Rye have been low throughout the period both commercial and pleasure. The fishing fleet have been hampered by bad weather, the trawlers only managing 7 trips in total for the months of Nov, Dec and Jan. The fishermen are also having to cope with punitive fish quotas imposed on the under 10 metre boats, which comprise all the Rye and Hastings trawlers. They have had meetings with Defra representatives supported by our local MP and another meeting is due later in March. We have been lucky this winter that no extreme storm surges occurred on top of spring tides as we experienced in Dec 2013, nor has the South-East been subjected to the terrible fluvial flooding which hit Cumbria and parts of Yorkshire and Scotland.

The Rye Maritime Festival has become a victim of its own success and will not take place this year. The organisers felt that the narrow access way left between the stalls and the unprotected edge of the quay with deep water or glistening mud below, was too much of a hazard with the number of people with their dogs and push chairs attending. It will be difficult to find another safer venue, and it wouldn't be the same without the Town Quay would it?

John Royle

2.11 Obituaries

Paul Blomfield died on 28 January 2015 aged 86



Paul would have known Rye all his life. His grandfather, the architect Sir Reginald Blomfield, built a number of large houses including Chequers and his own large house in Rye at Point Hill. He also designed the Cross of Sacrifice seen in War Cemeteries and War Memorials, including here in Rye.

Paul's father, Austin, also an architect, built and altered many of the houses in Rye. After the war he built the Vicarage and the two adjoining houses at Gungarden one of which would become Paul's own home while the other would become the home of his sister, Priscilla, Priscilla Ryan of Pugwash fame. Brother and sister lived next door to each other for over twenty-five years.

Paul became a Civil Engineer and worked for the City of London Corporation. He became Master of the Merchant Taylors' Company in 1984. He enjoyed good living, good wine, good food and good company.

On spending more of his time in Rye he took an active interest in Rye matters. He was instrumental in getting a Community Centre for Rye. Paul also had another particular interest, Rye Conservation Society and was Chairman from 1995 until he stood down at the Society's AGM in April 2011 when he became a Vice President.

During Paul's sixteen years as Chairman Rye was threatened by a number of developments to which the Society objected. Paul had considerable help from the then Hon. Secretary, Kenneth Bird and the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Robert Bromley, both now Vice Presidents of the Society.

In 2004 the Society contested and defeated at a Public Inquiry the attempt to develop a housing estate on the back of a "marina". About the same time there was the proposal to build a new library in Cinque Ports Street. The Society also took advice and gave advice on the limiting of 24 hour noise from pubs. In September 2005 it raised the need for action regarding the then derelict houses in Fishmarket Road. There was also the problem of the camper van being lived in at Brede Lock. In May 2006 the Society was commenting on The Local Plan and started turning its attention to the sorry state of the cobbles.

Paul will be best remembered by members of the Society for his organising of the outings to places of interest with his insistence upon finding a good place to eat.

Paul was an excellent front of house figurehead while at committee meetings there were times when he did not seem to need to be involved but would quietly let his committee come to their own conclusions - no bad thing.

Paul's son Rupert has pointed out that with the passing of his father there will be no more Blomfields working in and for Rye as they have for over a century - the end of an era.

John Griffiths

Roger Breeds died on 19 February 2015 aged 74

Roger's parents lived in Rye and he went to Rye Grammar School. The whole of his working life was spent in the local construction industry.

Meanwhile he was becoming involved in local Rye matters. For many years he was Chairman of Rye Youth Club and Vice Chairman of Rye Young Conservatives.

In 1976 he stood for election to Rye Town Council upon which he served continuously for 31 years. During this time he was Mayor of Rye, from 1984 to 1986, and was Speaker of the Cinque Ports from 1985 to 1986. He was elected to Rother District Council in 1987 and served for 8 years – planning being his main committee on both the District and Town Councils. Amongst his achievements were being on the Steering Committee for Rye Sports Hall and putting a successful proposal to Rother for a grant for Rye Pre-School Playgroup to build their new premises in Ferry Road. He was elected to vice-chair of Rother District Council in 1990.

Since his retirement until his death he was a keen member of Rye Conservation Society Planning Committee which he attended regularly every fortnight. His detailed knowledge of Rye buildings and their recent history was invaluable.

Julian Lockett

Jenny Lee died on 31 July 2015, aged 83.

Jenny Lee had many friends and acquaintances in Rye, having come to Rye on retirement to live next door to her mother at Eagle Cottages, Landgate.

She joined the Rye Conservation Society and served for countless years as membership secretary until 2011, keeping immaculate records and bringing them into the computer age. Her reports of outings and social events were always highly readable, with a sharp eye for detail. She was independent, with forthright and sometimes prickly opinions, but a good neighbour to a friend in need.

Her interests were wide-ranging, particularly in the arts, literature and music. Her cottage garden was a source of joy; she was a keen gardener and generous with surplus produce in season. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Kenneth Bird, RYENEWS August 2015

**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 and Lady Ampthill, 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, Mrs L Bonnet & Mr M Mark, 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, 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 A V Downend & Mr W Taylor, Ms Dragacevic & Mr R Gubbins, Mrs M Dunn, Mr & 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, Mrs B Gibbs, Mr E Gibson, Miss J Gibson, Mrs M R Gillum, Mrs P Goldney, Mrs E Goldsworthy, Mr & Mrs T Gooding, Dr & 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, Mrs C A Harvey, 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, Mrs R Iredale, Mr & Mrs K G Isted, Mr J Jempson, Mrs J Johnson, 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, Mr J Layfield, 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, 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, Mr & Mrs R Parren, Mrs I Pearce, Mr & Mrs A J Peroy, Mr & Mrs S Pettigrew, 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 Pottard, Mr J Pulford, Mr & Mrs A Reavell, Mr & Mrs S Redmond, Mr & Mrs D Reed, Mrs M Robins, Mr B Robinson, Professor B S Rosner, Mr & Mrs C Rowe, Lady Rowe, Mr & Mrs J Royle, Miss Amber Rudd, Mr & Mrs L Rumjahn, Mrs P Ryan, Simon the Pieman, Mrs H Simpson, Mrs E Slaven, 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, Mr M Taylor, 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 E Vere Nicoll, Mrs D Watson, 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 2016

Friday 22 April, 11.15am	Annual General Meeting St Mary's Church Centre Annual Lunch The Mermaid Inn
Wednesday 25 May	Visit to Canterbury
Sunday 3 July, 2.30 - 5pm	Annual Garden Party Little Orchard House 3 West Street, Rye TN31 7ES
Late September	Visit, date and place to confirmed
Friday 2 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