

David Bookless

I have been lucky to have lived in the lovely town of Rye since 1998, previously I worked and lived in London.

I have been Honorary Secretary of the Conservation Society since April 2015 giving me a broad knowledge of RCS activity. I have benefitted from the wise Chairmanship of John Griffiths and believe that I have worked effectively with all members of the Committee. When John decided that he wished to retire I canvassed my colleagues and decided to stand for Chairman.

As Secretary, apart from general administration of the Society, I have organised the Christmas Party attended by our MP Amber Rudd, produced the Annual Reports and arranged the Mermaid Annual luncheons. I have also represented the Society at meetings of the Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE) and other affiliated groups. In Rye I am the long standing Treasurer and active member of MLAG, the local railway action group.

As Chairman I would seek to build on our successes and try and deal with some problems of communication that have been highlighted by this election, we may need to review our Constitution to meet new challenges and we need to consider implications of the new Data Protection Act for storing membership information.

We need to review the provision of information to members, we could make a more regular contribution to Rye News to explain our policies and perhaps email members more regularly.

I have successfully implemented our new modernised Web Site, it now holds RCS comments on planning proposals such as the BP Garage Site proposal, and reports on RCS activities. I will continue to work to make it more useful for example by introducing a database of information on planning regulations for householders. We will still produce quarterly Newsletters and Annual Report booklets so that people who do not have ready access to the internet are kept informed.

A key task of the Society is to consider planning applications and make submissions to Rother, the planning authority; we are very fortunate to have members on the Executive with considerable planning expertise for this work. There will always be differing views about individual proposals, but I will seek to continue to foster informed debate on the Committee and elsewhere.

I will support the revised Neighbourhood Plan following the consultation process and push for it to be implemented.

We need to provide more information about the RCS for people moving to Rye and encourage them to become members. Membership is open to anyone interested in the future of Rye who supports our objectives for conserving and improving this wonderful town.

Finally I would encourage and help organise the social side of the Society for members with events including the Annual Lunch, which follows this AGM, the July Garden Party and the Christmas Party.

I believe that after 45 years the Society is in good shape and that with your support I will be building on strong foundations.

David Bookless