



Committee members and Consultants

David Bookless, Chairman

David was born and brought up in Hampstead London, attending Haberdashers' Aske's School. He studied Economics and Economic History at Bristol University gaining a BScHons. He spent 25 years as a manager in various parts of British Telecom. He moved to the beautiful town of Rye in 1987, but continued to commute to London until 1998 before finding sense and moving here full time! In Rye he is a Membership Secretary and Treasurer of the MarshLink Action Group seeking improvements in the local railway service and involved with proposals to bring HS2 to Rye. He lives with his partner Heather Stevenson, who is a director of Rye Museum and serves on the successful Christmas in Rye Committee. He is a member of the MCC and Arsenal Football Club.

Julian Lockett, Chairman of Planning Committee

Studied architecture at Bristol University and worked in London as an architect in private practice for 35 years. He has extensive experience of working with listed buildings and has designed buildings for and acted as advisor to the London Business School in Regent's Park, the Royal Ballet School in Covent Garden, the Soho Housing Association, banks, other educational establishments and private clients.

Diana Hajikakou, Hon Treasurer

Having read Egyptology at Liverpool University, she decided to do something sensible and trained as a teacher. She taught at an International School in Abu Dhabi for two years before returning to live in the UK. She worked as deputy head of department at a large multi-racial school in East London for six years. At the same time she worked voluntarily in the Egyptology Department at the British Museum, collating the archives, and taught a course in Egyptology to adult education classes. A move to Rye saw her teaching in Hastings College for a couple of years before a change of career to running a dental practice, first in St Leonards and then in Rye.

Rae Festing, Assistant Events and Planning Committee

Attended Rye Grammar School, followed by a three-year course at what is now the Central College of Fashion in London. She emigrated and lived in Canada for 13 years. On her return to the UK, she ran a small business designing and making clothes then did interior design work in London. She has detailed knowledge of most of the shops and buildings in Rye and has served on the RCS Planning Committee for over 20 years.

Andy Stuart, Publicity and Membership Secretary

Took a BA in History of Art at Manchester University, specialising in Victorian Architecture and the English Decorated style, and wrote a thesis on the educational buildings designed by Alfred Waterhouse. Career opportunities being somewhat limited in this field, after working with electronic components and in the wine trade, he co-founded a publishing company specialising in mortgages. He is now a freelance writer and maintains a life-long interest in architecture.

Wayne Jones, Planning Liaison

Having studied history at Leeds University, he went on to complete an MA at Birkbeck College London specialising in the 19th Century. His career was in teaching and he was a head teacher in London on retirement. Since living full time in Rye he has been a director of the Museum and still volunteers there two days a week; he is also a committee member of the Rye Festival. His interest in conservation has come about through the restoration of his listed property and the struggle to prevent it being constantly damaged by large vehicles.

Andrew Bamji, Committee Member & Highways Forum

He qualified in medicine from the Middlesex Hospital, University of London in 1973, and was a consultant in rheumatology and rehabilitation at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup for 28 years. He is a past President of the British Society for Rheumatology. Now retired from clinical practice he is an expert on medicine and surgery of the Great War with a special interest in facial reconstruction, and is Gillies Archivist to the British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons. A member of the Listed Property Owners Club and the Georgian Group, he has had a lifelong interest in architecture and fine art, and has gained considerable practical experience of the renovation of houses of different ages, and of the local authority planning process.

Mike Stott, Planning Committee member

Studied Architecture in Bristol, worked in London for a number of architectural practices and in the late 60s moved to Dominica in the East Caribbean Windward Islands; started his own practice designing housing, hospitals, schools, government buildings, hotels and leisure facilities. On return to the UK in 1974, he started an architectural practice based in Kent and in 2002 brought the practice to Rye, continuing to work in architecture and interior design of hotels, restaurants, pubs and leisure facilities, with major projects throughout the UK and in Sweden, Finland and West Africa. Now living in Rye Harbour, he is a founder member of the Rye Harbour Artists Group, a committee member of the Rye Society of Artists and a Trustee of Rye Art Gallery.

John Spencer

Alan Thomson

John Griffiths, President

He is an architect who founded the Manchester Building and Design Centre. For 12 years he was Head of Technical Information in the Department of the Environment, with responsibility for a programme of 400 lectures a year, advisory leaflets on building problems, a quarterly journal, content of Government stands at building exhibitions and films for the industry. He formed the Building Conservation Trust and was Clerk to two City Livery Companies.

Honorary Consultants

Alan Dickinson, Historical

John Royle, Maritime

Retired Chartered Surveyor, practised as Building Surveyor and Valuer within the Rye area for 40 years. Served in Royal Naval Reserve for 25 years, was a member of Rye Harbour advisory committee to Southern Water and advised the Environment Agency on pilotage, hydrography and dredging. Member of the RAC Foundation Roads Network Group looking into the national roads network, congestion, pollution issues and roads pricing policy.