

RYE TOWN COUNCIL
*working for the social, economic and environmental well-being
of the Antient Town of Rye*

NEWS – MARCH 2009

A FUND FOR RYE

A small group of residents and others passionate about Rye – Kenneth Bird, Robert Bromley, Michael Eve, Sarah Philo and Christopher Strangeways - have got together as a Steering Group to form a new charity, The Rye Fund – 'to keep the best of the old and to encourage new initiatives which carry the very special quality of Rye into the future.' The Fund's objectives are:

- To provide an annual income that will be distributed in grants to voluntary bodies and charitable organisations for initiatives that benefit the local community living in and around Rye
- To create a growth fund with interest re-invested and disbursements being made for specific capital projects concerning the built environment.

It has been set up in conjunction with the Sussex Community Foundation (www.sussexgiving.org.uk), an independent charity which manages funds and distributes grants on behalf of donors within Sussex. The Foundation will hold and manage monies donated to the Rye Fund and administer the grant making process – including monitoring performance and investment management. Donations to the Rye Fund will be dedicated for the sole benefit of Rye and a local panel has been set up to identify and recommend suitable projects. The panel comprises local people who know the area and who may be involved in a local business or charitable organisation. If you are interested in serving on the panel, donating or applying for funding email chairman@theyefund.org.uk or telephone Kenneth Bird on 225030.

Currently, £20,000 has been raised towards the Fund's initial £50,000 target.

For further information visit www.theyefund.org.uk.

POST OFFICE LATEST

Many readers will know by now that the temporary post office facility at the Cinque Ports Street premises closed on 6 February and that Jempsons agreed (at just 24 hours' notice) that it could be relocated to the old opticians in Station Approach. From 23 February Jempsons became the new sub postmaster and, subject to public consultation, it is envisaged that it will be providing a permanent, modern Post Office.

The opening times are as follows:

Monday-Friday 8.30-5.30

Saturday 8.30-1.00

A free bus service, operated by Jempsons, runs from Rye Station to the Post Office in Peasmarsh.

For further information contact the Post Office Customer Helpline on 08457 223344.

BACK HOME

The Council was delighted to have played a part in securing an historic Rye document, dating from the short reign of Queen Mary I, for display at Rye Museum.

The vellum manuscript – the assignation of 24 acres of salt marsh – (unusually) retains its original wax seal and is signed by Sir Robert Oxbridge, Rye MP from 1553-1558.

ACTION PLANNING

The Rye Local Action Plan Steering Group – comprising Town Councillors and members of the community – would like to thank those of you who completed the questionnaire delivered with the February *Fixtures*. The questionnaires – as well as any additional comments made – are now being analysed and will form the basis of a draft Action Plan which will identify priority concerns and who will be charged with addressing them. Feedback will be sought on the results of the questionnaire before the final Plan is published. It is envisaged that the Rye Plan will be reviewed regularly and will inform the decision-making of not only the Town Council but also other public/'public good' bodies – including Rother District Council, East Sussex County Council, the Environment Agency, the Rye Partnership and the Hastings & Rother Primary Care Trust.

The Rye Local Action Plan Co-ordinator, Angela Alexander may be contacted at: reyactionplan.yahoo.co.uk.

BUDGET

On 26 January Councillors resolved that the Town Council precept (local tax) for 2009-10 would be £83,651. (Approximately £43.33pa – or 83p a week – for a Band D taxpayer.)

HERITAGE CENTRE UPDATE

On 1 November last year the Council found itself, at short notice, having to step in to run Rye Heritage Centre after Rye Town Services (RTS) prematurely withdrew from the contract. At a Council meeting held on 9 February Members decided that they did not accept the validity of two invoices submitted by RTS to the Council, totalling just under £32,000. Furthermore the Council has asked RTS to pay it approximately £15,000 which the company itself has admitted is owed to the Council.

In order to safeguard the provision of tourist information in the area in the short term, the Town Council agreed with Rother District Council that it would manage the Centre on an interim basis, pending the award of a new 3-year Tourist Information Centre contract (2009-12). Both the Town Council and Tourism South-East (TSE) have bid for the contract. At the time of writing Rother's Cabinet has resolved to give the contract to TSE. In practice, this means the contract is subject to TSE successfully negotiating with the Town Council for the use of the Rye Heritage Centre.

IN NEED?

The Council's charity, Rye Relief in Need, exists to help Rye residents in need, hardship or distress. For an application form visit www.ryetowncouncil.gov.uk or email townhall@ryetowncouncil.gov.uk. For an informal (and confidential) chat ring the Secretary, Richard Farhall on 223902.

ELUSIVE POST BOX

Those of you living in Military Road and North Salts will know that after the Royal Mail post box at the entrance to Mountsfield was sealed up a replacement box was installed on the opposite side of the road; however, because of its 'discrete' location this is not obvious to anyone approaching from the town!

DEVOLVED SERVICES

In January the Council reviewed its position in relation to the devolvement of services from larger councils and decided to explore, with Rother District Council, the possible devolvement of a package of services/functions comprising allotments, public conveniences, tourism and car parks. Surpluses made on running Rye's car parks could, potentially, subsidise the other three service areas.

SURGERIES

The next four Councillor Surgeries will be attended by:

Mar 4	Cllrs Lorna Hall and Sonia Holmes
Apr 8	Cllrs Jo Kirkham and Paul Osborne
May 6	Cllrs Frank Palmer and Ian Potter
June 3	Cllrs Shaun Rogers and David Russell

If you would like to book a 15-minute slot at the Town Hall please ring 223902 by noon on the day of the surgery. The first appointment available is at 6.30pm.

Andy Hemsley's weekly Thursday drop-in surgeries at Rye Town Hall remain suspended. Andy is generally in Rye on Fridays and may be contacted on 01424 856781.

Michael Foster MP holds a monthly surgery at the Town Hall on the second Friday of the month. To make an appointment please ring 01424 464604 or email mp@1066.net.

RYE TOWN COUNCIL INFORMATION

FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

All are open to the public. You are welcome to attend, ask questions and express any concerns at meetings of the full Council and Planning Committee. Meetings are held at the Town Hall, with the first listed commencing 6.30pm unless indicated otherwise

March	2 Planning & Townscape	16 Planning & Townscape, Council
	30 Planning & Townscape, Public Services	
April	1 (Wed) Annual Town Meeting (7pm)	14 (Tues) Planning & Townscape, Council
	27 Planning & Townscape, Leisure & Tourism	
May	4 (BH) Mayor Making (11am)	11 Committee Formation, Planning & Townscape
	26 (Tues) Planning & Townscape	

CONTACTING RYE TOWN COUNCIL

by post Town Hall, Market Street, Rye TN31 7LA
by fax 227706 by email townhall@ryetowncouncil.gov.uk by phone 223902
web www.ryetowncouncil.gov.uk

Principal staff Town Clerk Richard Farhall – based at the Town Hall.

Councillors

BANTICK Granville	25 Udimore Road, Rye TN31 7DS	t 227724
BREEDS John (Deputy Mayor)	71 Udimore Road, Rye TN31 7EA e jabreeds@hotmail.com	t 222554
BREEDS Jonathan	The Standard Inn, The Mint, Rye TN31 7EN	t 225996
ELLIOTT Brian	The Windmill, Ferry Rd, Rye TN31 7DW e info@ryewindmill.co.uk	t 224027
FIDDIMORE Bernardine	8 Doleham Cottages, Doleham Hill, Guestling TN35 4NA e councillorfiddimore@fsmail.net	t 01424 814194
HALL Lorna	Rolvendene Farm, Love Lane Rye TN31 7NU e rolvendene@tiscali.co.uk	t 229808
HOLMES Sonia*	23 North Salts, Rye TN31 7NU e cllr.sonia.holmes@rother.gov.uk	t 222068
KIRKHAM Jo	10 Cadborough Cliff, Rye TN31 7EB	t 222562
OSBORNE Paul	Cadborough Cottage, 170 Udimore Road, Rye TN31 6AA m 07973 742210 e paul@posborne7.orangehome.co.uk	t/f 222415
PALMER Frank	4 The Strand, Rye TN31 7DB	t 222603
POTTER Ian	146 Udimore Road, Rye TN31 7DZ	t 223453
ROGERS Shaun	103 Winchelsea Road, Rye TN31 7EL m 07983 098284 e councilor@ssoh.co.uk	t 223942
RUSSELL David*	Mountsfield, Rye Hill, Rye TN31 7NH	t/f 227106
SMITH Mary	10 Tower St, Rye e mysdys@hotmail.co.uk	t 227569
SOUSTER Sam (Mayor)	96 Udimore Road, Rye TN31 7DX	t 224305
WRIGHT David	11 Landgate, Rye TN31 7LH m 07703 214793 e councillorwright@hotmail.co.uk	t 227696

* also a Rother District Councillor for Rye

Surgeries

Rye Town Councillors hold regular surgeries at the Town Hall on the first Wednesday of the month, 6.30pm-7.30pm. If you would like to discuss an issue or concern please ring Judy on 223902 to make an appointment.

Rye Heritage Centre

Home of the Rye Town Model, Rye Tourist Information Centre, a gift shop, Old Pier Amusements and collection point for the Rye Audio Walking Tours. Operated by Rye Town Council. t 226696. www.ryeheritage.co.uk.

Useful Contacts

East Sussex County Council	t 01273 481000	www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk
MP (Michael Foster)	t 01424 464604	
Rother District Council	t 01424 787878	www.rother.gov.uk
Rother Homes	t 0845 3550999	www.horizon-hg.org.uk
Rye Community Help Point	t 222293	
Rye County Councillor (Keith Glazier)	t 229581	e cllr.keith.glazier@eastsussex.gov.uk
Rye Partnership	t 229600	www.ryepartnership.org.uk