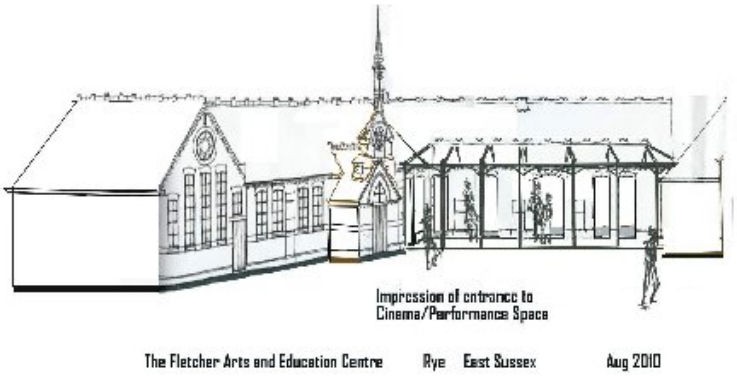
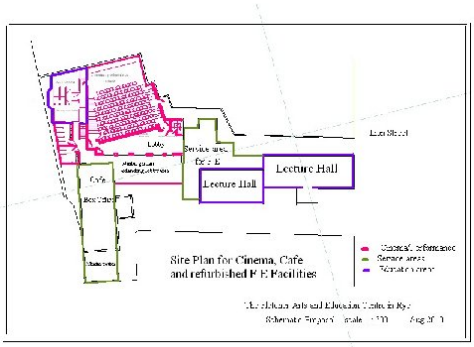
Friends of Fletcher Theatre

NEWSLETTER No. 2 September 2010

Dear Friends,

You will all be thinking that it's been a very quiet summer. Appearances can be very deceptive! Rest assured that, behind the scenes this summer, the Fletcher Committee has been hard at work developing the plans for the **Fletcher Arts & Education Centre**, which we hope will find a home in **Lion Street**. If you read the Rye Observer at all, you will have seen an article by Andy Hemsley in the Friday 18th edition. The illustration below shows what we think the new Centre could look like: the Box Office/Reception/Cafe will be in the present Library Building; between that and the Rye Education Centre, there will be a new glazed Winter Garden frontage for the planned Cinema & Performance Area. To gain the necessary ramped seating for this new venue, we will have to build down into the rear garden (one of Rye's really hidden spaces!). However the roof line is not affected by this and the building will look the same. The lovely Art Room can be retained as it is to-day whilst the necessary back stage accommodation (changing rooms, etc) can be created out of the Lower Ground cellars beneath the Art Room. In addition, new toilet facilities will have to be created and all made fully accessible.





The Fletcher Group and the Rye FE Group are both committed to this exciting proposal - which includes the refurbishment of the beloved FE Centre - but much work lies ahead on the development side. However, the Committee is optimistic that this is a feasible way forward. An application for seed funding has been made to enable further feasibility studies to take place and we have also made an initial approach to Hastings College, the current owners of the site, to see whether a deal is possible for the site to be returned to the town's ownership …..
it's a case of 'Watch This Space'

OTHER NEWS:
Please make a note in your diaries for the **Fletcher Christmas Party** on the **19th December**, the eve of our playwright's birthday, at **Simply Italian** on the Strand. The event is open to Friends (and their friends/family). Tickets (from **Forget-Me-Not**, next door to Fletcher's Tea Rooms) are **£25 per person** for a 3-course meal (choice of starter; turkey or pork loin or vegetarian option; home-made dessert) & ½ bottle of wine. To add to the fun, there will be a **Fletcher Quiz** with the (strong) possibility of a prize to whoever was the most assiduous Fletcher researcher!
In the Spring, we are also hopeful that an **Evening with Simon Callow** can be held. Details of this are still being worked out but confirmation will be made as soon as possible. We're expecting this event to be as entertaining as the *For All Time* & *The Mad Lover* evenings.

2011 SUBSCRIPTIONS:
In view of the paucity of events in the second half of this year, the Committee have agreed that renewals of subscriptions will be deferred to April 1st 2011 – yes, that's 3 months free Membership ….
However, we hope that all of you will feel able to renew. In addition to future events, we look forward to bringing you more news on the **Lion Street project** as this unfolds over the next 12 months.