



# Friends of Fletcher in Rye

## NEWSLETTER No. 4 Spring 2011

Dear Friends of Fletcher,

2011 .... and much exciting news to impart on how the 'Fletcher' dream is coming to fruition .....

### THE FLETCHER ARTS & EDUCATION CENTRE

Whilst our long-term focus remains the celebration of the works of John Fletcher and the other Jacobean playwrights, the onerous search for an appropriate permanent site has ended in a co-bid, with St Mary's Church/FE Group, for the Lion Street site. Our vision for Lion Street was aired at a Launch Party & public exhibition last November (see *Newsletter 3 November*) but, since then, the scheme has evolved. It is now expected that: **St Mary's Church/FE Group** will assume responsibility for the continuation of all educational courses within the FE Centre whilst **Fletcher in Rye CIC** will assume responsibility for the reconfigured Library/Art Room/link buildings. It has been a nail-biting and exhausting journey but we are now within sight of a hugely satisfactory conclusion. With RDC finally refusing the 2004 planning application for residential development of the site, the Financial Committee and the General Purpose Committee of SCCH have both voted to recommend acceptance of our alternative proposal. The final decision rests with the SCCH Board of Governors meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup> ..... perhaps, we can now allow ourselves to dream that a favourable decision will be announced as early as the **end of March**. If so, in a little more than 18 months, we have come an incredible distance against seemingly insurmountable odds. So, it is a great big

**THANK YOU** to all the Members who displayed faith in our Fletcher vision and signed up at inception. Our thanks must also extend to those others who supported us along the way. In particular, **Pete** and **Lee**, hosts at Fletcher's Tea Rooms, for their inspired **Christmas Raffle Event** which raised £1,600. This fantastic sum will help in funding future Fletcher events (see below). Of course, the event could not have happened at all without the combined efforts of all those involved – from hardy **ticket-sellers** to

those generous **Rye donors** who provided the various prizes.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Never ones to rest when we could be producing great drama (on stage), we are planning two exciting Fletcher events.

Firstly, Hugh Kermode, our Artistic Director, is negotiating with **Simon Callow** to give a reading of his favourite poetry & prose .... most probably at The George (a la *The Mad Lover* production). Secondly, we are working to bring the London production of **The Wild-Goose Chase** - a hugely popular 1621 Fletcher play on the age-old 'battle of the sexes' – for a 1-night only performance in Rye (venue yet to be agreed). The play is currently enjoying a run at a small London venue to good reviews.

The exact date for each event has to be confirmed but we hope that these will be over the summer....

The 2010 *Fletcher Birthday Party*, held at Simply Italian on December 19<sup>th</sup>, was a great success - so we are also hoping to make this an **annual event**. However, the mind-stretching and entertaining *2010 Fletcher Quiz* can still be viewed/played @ **[www.fletchertheatre.co.uk](http://www.fletchertheatre.co.uk)**

### MEMBERSHIP

Yes, it's that time again! Renewals are due on **April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011**. We do hope you will renew and encourage others to join as well. You will be the first to know what we are planning and will receive a 10% discount on tickets.

**Membership: Friends @ £10; Patrons @ £50**

**Electronic payment** (preferred) @:

**HSBC** Bank Code: 40-39-18

A/c Name: Fletcher in Rye CIC

A/c No: 31413856

**Reference:** Surname/Membership No

Alternatively, **cheques** to: **Fletcher in Rye CIC**

c/o Forget Me Not, 72 Church Square, TN31 7HF  
**Name& address** on the back of the cheque so we can monitor who has paid.

### THANK YOU

Any questions, please contact **Heidi Foster** on T: **01797 229 103**; E: **[heidi@heidi15.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:heidi@heidi15.fsnet.co.uk)**