



Friends of Fletcher Theatre

NEWSLETTER No. 1 Spring 2010

Dear Friends,

It was wonderful to see your support at our 1st production, 'For All Time', when we launched the Fletcher Group in November 2009. The feedback was very positive and we are now planning ahead for 2010 with some really exciting events. The first of these, '**The Mad Lover**' is on **April 24th**, with drinks & canapés from 5pm at The George, Rye. We hope that you will be able to join us on the evening, as well as at one or two of the subsequent 2010 events which are tentatively scheduled for **June** and **20th December**, the latter to coincide with Fletcher's birthday. If you could display the enclosed flyer, this would be wonderful. A potted history of **John Fletcher** (1579-1625) hopefully will help to set the scene, so to speak, for this ambitious programme and put our excitement into context for you; it might also encourage you to get involved and help make Rye's latest cultural endeavour a huge success!

John Fletcher was born in 1579 in Rye where his father was Minister at St Mary's Church. Fletcher's old home sits conveniently close to the Church, in Lion Street. When Fletcher was only 17 his father died insolvent leaving Fletcher to fend for himself. Little else is known of his early childhood and he died (from plague) in 1625, at the age of 46 – given the odds at that time, this was probably seen as a good age to have reached although we would lament that so talented a writer died too young. Within those 29 years, between the ages of 17 and 46, he achieved much: in 1606, he met the writer Francis Beaumont and began the creative partnership that was to produce 15 plays before Beaumont's untimely death (from plague) in 1616. Fletcher went on to write another 16 plays under his own name as

well as collaborating with many of the prominent writers/actors of the day – Rowley, Middleton and Shakespeare, among others. In fact, recent research into a forgotten play, '*Double Falsehood*' by Lewis Theobald, a little known 19th century playwright, has uncovered strong links to '*Cardenio*', a play co-written by Shakespeare and Fletcher which was last performed in 1613 at the Drury Lane Theatre. Wit, humour and romanticism are the essence of Fletcher's writing and there is no doubt that some of his plays stand the test of time to be enjoyed in the 21st century.

FRIENDS of FLETCHER

We hope that all of you who joined in 2009 will continue your support and renew your Membership (when due). Much work has gone into the planning of this new venture and we would like to encourage anyone, interested in getting more actively involved, to get in touch and volunteer their skills and expertise – from technical support, artistic/musical input through to fund-raising, distribution of newsletters and other promotional material. Inspired?

Please contact **Heidi Foster**, Editor on:

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If you would prefer to be contacted by e – mail, please advise.

Tickets from the TIC, Lion Street, Rye
REMEMBER TO TAKE YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD TO RECEIVE THE FRIEND'S DISCOUNT.

MEMBERSHIP

We have already an impressive membership list from the November event and welcome further new members – the more the merrier (as Fletcher might disclaim!)

From All at The Fletcher Theatre.....