



Friends of Fletcher Theatre

NEWSLETTER No. 3 Autumn 2010

Dear Friends,

Our **Fletcher Arts & Education Centre** Project is reassuringly gathering speed and gravitas!

More of this later but, in the meantime, a timely reminder

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR TICKET TO OUR DECEMBER BASH?

As you will know, the event on the 19th December is to celebrate **John Fletcher's Birthday** (which falls on the 20th) and, in true Jacobean style, we will be eating, drinking and making merry at **Simply Italian**. Tickets at **Forget-Me-Not**, 72 Church Square (top of Lion Street)

AVAILABLE NOW

Before that significant date, there is another for your diaries

November 19th at Fletcher's Tea Rooms, 6-8pm when you will have an opportunity to learn about the **Fletcher Arts & Education Centre** in great detail. **Derek Rankin**, at Jonathan Dunn Architects, has created a scheme showing the full potential of the site which will be on show at Fletcher's and Derek himself will be there to answer any questions.

WILL YOU COME ALONG TO SUPPORT THE FLETCHER in RYE CIC (*) IN THIS EXCITING SCHEME?

The evening is a **fund-raiser** for the scheme's initial costs – architect's fees, planning application costs, production of promotional material, etc. Board Members will also be there to answer questions on aspects of the Sponsorship/ Donation opportunities. **Drinks** and **canapés** will be served and a **minimum donation of £10 per head** would be appreciated (this will go towards the Project's initial costs)

A public exhibition (without any interaction with architects) is due to be held between **2 – 7pm** on **November 22nd** in the **FE Centre**, Lion Street.

Development costs are likely to be £900K for the conversion of the buildings with an additional £450K for fitting-out the Cinema all of which we will have to raise through a combination of commercial loans, **sponsorship**, and **donations**

This is not an inconsiderable sum and, wisely, the Board has co-opted both **David Fellowes** - to lead on grant applications* for Project Development funding - **Paul Leader**, a professional fund-raiser, to assist us in these endeavours.

[* Do note that the name of the company has been changed to **Fletcher in Rye CIC** to give us a broader base from which to seek grant –funding.]

Meanwhile, in the background, the scheme is gathering momentum with each passing day..... **SCCH** responded to our initial approaches by confirming that they want to sell the whole site as one in a single deal, but their tone was encouraging; heartened, we met with the Principal on the 28th October to explain our proposal in greater detail. However, SCCH are still pursuing planning consent with their application due to be considered by RDC on **November 18th**. We suspect that the consents will be granted (with a S106 proviso that the FE Centre building must remain as a D1 ie. educational, premises) so we are pressing ahead with our own application to demonstrate to RDC that there is a viable and more attractive option for Lion Street. The **Head of Planning** at RDC has been to site and is really pleased that such a bold solution has been devised

Rye Town Council is broadly supportive of the plans, as are Rye Chamber of Commerce, the Rye Hoteliers Association, Rye Conservation Society

So, from this moment in time, we are on a roll and looking for **pro-active support** to ensure that the ball keeps rolling until we achieve the opening of the **Fletcher Arts & Education Centre** in Lion Street.

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU TO KICK-START OUR FUNDING APPEAL?