

## RYE HERITAGE CENTRE<sup>1</sup> IS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Many will have noticed the empty windows and closed doors at Rye Heritage Centre following Rye Town Council's reluctant decision to relocate some operations and, as necessary, put the Town Model into storage. This decision followed several years of deficit requiring subsidy from the Council's limited funds.



Happily, following a social media campaign launched last autumn, Rye Town Council agreed to consider a proposal from a group of self elected trustees to keep the centre open and the model operating without having to find a new home. After the proposal was accepted by Councillors, as trustees, we have moved on to establish a charity called: "**Rye Heritage Centre**"

The local community has showed tremendous support and passion for the model, seen by many as an important Rye asset. In existence for around 40 years, many local residents, saw the model for the first time as schoolchildren. They now regard it as valuable and in need of conservation. Visitors from all over the world have also seen the model with its sound and light show. Many return with friends and family. The centre not only makes a significant contribution to the town's "reasons to visit" but provides a valuable educational facility to both visitors and local residents alike.

Community support has fuelled the trustees' efforts to achieve the model's continued survival and we give thanks for that. We remain keen to maintain community engagement in to the future. The Charities Commission has agreed to a charity structure of Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), existing for public benefit and governed by a board of trustees. With much work already completed, we plan to operate the Centre and the famous Town Model from 1 April 2020.

We will be contacting those who have offered their help and will set up a register of volunteers for various roles. If you would like to join us in whatever way please do get in touch. We are seeking people for roles as varied as part time manager, researchers, to fundraisers to cleaners to volunteer supervisory staff (a key requirement to make the centre financially viable).

Of course, we also need money! If you'd like to donate, we can receive donations to Rye Heritage Centre. If you're feeling really generous and would like to donate £100 or more please get in touch direct. Initially we are looking to fund the start up costs (sales and exhibitions material, stock and so on). Later we plan to enhance the model and related exhibitions. Once under way we plan to get the organisation onto a sound business footing. To contact the Charity Trustees on any matter, please send to:

[heritagecentrerye@gmail.com](mailto:heritagecentrerye@gmail.com)

***The Charity Trustees***

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<sup>1</sup> ***Rye Heritage Centre*** is a Registered Charity, Number 1187978