

# Rye Arts Festival



## 9th - 25th September 2022

[ryeartsfestival.org.uk](http://ryeartsfestival.org.uk)



HEADLINE SPONSOR



**NFU Mutual**  
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# NFU MUTUAL – PART OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Rye Arts Festival has become a staple of East Sussex, growing in attendance and attraction. Celebrating it's 51st year, those who have visited Rye during the event can easily identify why the festival has continued to thrive. As folk continue to be drawn in from further afield, there remains a sense of community spirit, with locals wanting to share their love and passion for the arts and their picturesque home.

Sponsoring a festival that supports a community loved and cherished by our customers was a key factor for NFU Mutual Ashford, Tenterden and Whitfield. Within our agency we believe in building meaningful relationships with each customer, which is why we've taken the time to understand their needs. We believe in having real conversations with customers to make sure they have the right cover to suit their requirements.

NFU Mutual offer a range of policies providing cover for your personal and business insurance as well as financial planning services. Regardless of the service you require, customer service is at the heart of everything we do.



Lee Phillips deals with private clients on their bespoke needs.



Stuart Guest specialises in building lasting relationships with local businesses across multiple sectors.



Jessica Wooff can assist with motor, personal and commercial enquiries.

Whatever your policy or service requirement, our team are attentive and listen to your needs.

We pride ourselves on the care and attention we give our customers. And much like our friends at the Rye Arts Festival, we want to create a meaningful experience that further supports and enhances the local community.

**Contact NFU Mutual Ashford, Tenterden & Whitfield to discuss how we can help you protect the things you care about.**

Ashford Office | 01233 500 822

Tenterden Office | 01580 766 174

Whitfield Office | 01304 825 225



**NFU Mutual**

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# Welcome to the 2022 Rye Arts Festival

We are delighted to announce a full programme of events for this year's Rye Arts Festival. We are proud to offer world class performers from around the globe as well as locals.

For our classical music programme, we are thrilled to partner with the City Music Foundation. Dr Clare Taylor, Managing Director of CMF, says: "CMF's talent development programme provides selected exceptional performers with the skills, networks and experiences they need to secure their careers in these very difficult times. We are delighted to consolidate our relationship with Rye Arts Festival with a series of concerts featuring CMF artists - we know they will give moving and entertaining performances".

We are offering lunchtime as well as evening concerts this year in the historic setting of St. Mary's Church. Making a welcome return are The Victoria Consort with another fabulous musical pilgrimage between Winchelsea and Rye. Our traditional and contemporary music programme provides the hot sounds of West Africa and the fusion of blues guitar and Celtic fiddle, by way of 1920s Charleston music and English folk.

Our books and talks programme is headlined by best-selling author Robert Harris, whose latest historical novel, *Act of Oblivion* will be published at the start of September. Lord David Owen and Martin Bruce will discuss England's relationship with Russia and award-winning journalist Gavin Esler will ask *How United is our Kingdom?*

Rev. Richard Coles has retired as a parson and turned to crime! His debut novel *Murder Before*

*Evensong* shot to the top of the bestseller charts in June, as did Patrick Gale's latest novel *Mother's Boy*. We also have a number of E. F. Benson events, celebrating one of Rye's most famous residents on the centenary of the publication of *Miss Mapp*.

We also welcome Costa winner Claire Fuller, biographer Miranda Seymour on Jean Rhys, James Runcie on Bach, Andrew Maunday on Enid Blyton and Alex Preston conversing with Adam Nicolson on his new novel *Winchelsea*. We celebrate hidden queer histories with award-winning poet Joelle Taylor and writers Neill Bartlett and Sam Kenyon, plus an inspiring Bold Queer Poetry Soirée chaired by Nathan Evans.

Drama will include Oscar Wilde's *De Profundis* and *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*. We have two spoken word events – *Stop Trying to be Fantastic* and *366 Days of Kindness* – in which our innate good is celebrated! Don't miss *Inside the Archers*, with editor Jeremy Howe and Felicity French (who plays Ruth Archer) giving the low-down on the world's longest running radio drama!

We are delighted to be working again with NFU Mutual Ashford, Tenterden & Whitfield branch as our headline sponsors and hope that we will see you during Festival Fortnight when the very best of the arts comes to town!

**John Case & Andy Stuart**  
Joint Festival Directors

It is an honour to once again be asked to headline sponsor the Rye Arts Festival. We thoroughly enjoyed being part of the festival in 2021, with Gyles Brandreth being a particular highlight.

We pride ourselves for offering a local, personal service and we remain ever invested in our customers and their interests. Rye is a short distance from our Ashford and Tenterden offices and, we thoroughly enjoy working with the many individuals and businesses within the community.

This year, please spare a thought for those in Ukraine and look out for the donation boxes at the festival.

Enjoy the festival and all the talent Rye has to offer.



**Darren Smith**, Partner  
NFU Mutual Ashford,  
Tenterden & Whitfield



**NFU Mutual**  
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DAY	EVENT	DOORS	STARTS	DURATION	PAGE	VENUE
Fri 9th	Rhythms & Waves - James Larter	12:30	13:00	1hr	7	St Mary's Church, Rye
Fri 9th	Godmersham Park - Gill Hornby	14:30	15:00	1hr	7	Rye Community Centre
Fri 9th	Inside The Archers - Jeremy Howe & Felicity Finch	19:00	19:30	1½hrs	7	Rye Community Centre
Sat 10th	Captain Pugwash OAP - Isabel Ryan	10:00	10:10	1hr	9	Kino Cinema, Rye
Sat 10th	Outdoor Theatre: Buzz, Tree Fellas, Campers		12:00	6hrs	8	The Citadel, Rye
Sat 10th	Act of Oblivion - Robert Harris	11:30	12:00	1hr	9	St Mary's Church, Rye
Sat 10th	Winchelsea - Alex Preston with Adam Nicolson	14:30	15:00	1hr	9	St Mary's Church, Rye
Sat 10th	A Feast of Strings - Margarita Balanas	18:45	19:30	2hrs	10	St Mary's Church, Rye
Sat 10th	The Mountain Firework Company	19:30	20:00	2hrs	10	Rye Community Centre
Sun 11th	Festival of the Sea		12:00	3hrs	10	The Salts, Rye
Sun 11th	Piano Recital - Cordelia Williams	18:45	19:30	1½hrs	11	St Mary's Church, Rye
Mon 12th	Discover Rye Harbour Walk - Dr Barry Yates		10:00	3hrs	11	Rye Heritage Centre
Mon 12th	In Godwin's Own Country - Dr Geraldine Alexander	13:30	14:00	1hr	11	Rye Harbour Discovery Centre
Mon 12th	Musical Connections - Cordelia Williams & Tamsin Waley-Cohen	18:45	19:30	1½hrs	12	St Mary's Church, Rye
Tue 13th	Winchelsea Cellar Tours (also 15 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> )	10:45	11:00	1½hrs	12	Town Well, Winchelsea
Tue 13th	Hidden Rye - Paul Goring walk (also 16 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> )		11:00	2hrs	12	Meet at The Buttermarket
Tue 13th	Malcolm Saville's Sussex - Elaine Luke	10:30	11:00	1hr	13	St Mary's Centre, Rye
Tue 13th	Writers in Romney Marsh, Part One - Dr Pat Argar	14:30	15:00	1hr	13	Rye Baptist Church
Tue 13th	Russia - Riddle, Mystery & Enigma - Lord David Owen	18:45	19:30	1hr	13	St Mary's Church, Rye
Wed 14th	E. F. Benson Storytime for Adults (morning session)	10:30	11:00	1hr	14	Lamb House, Rye
Wed 14th	E. F. Benson Storytime for Adults (afternoon session)	13:30	14:00	1hr	14	Lamb House, Rye
Wed 14th	The Challenges of Journalism Today - Nick Davies	16:00	16:30	1hr	14	Rye Community Centre
Wed 14th	Spooky Rye - a ghost walk with Paul Goring (also 19 <sup>th</sup> )		20:30	1½hrs	15	Meet at The Buttermarket
Wed 14th	Film - Cabaret (1972)	20:00	20:15	2hrs	15	Kino Cinema, Rye
Thu 15th	Between Dreams & Reality - Antoine Préat	12:30	13:00	1hr	15	St Mary's Church, Rye
Thu 15th	The Haunted Life of Jean Rhys - Miranda Seymour	14:30	15:00	1hr	16	Rye Baptist Church
Thu 15th	Stop Trying to be Fantastic - Molly Naylor	18:30	19:00	1hr	16	The Brewery Yard, Rye
Thu 15th	La Tempesta di Mare - Sounds of Baroque Venice	18:45	19:30	1½hrs	16	St Mary's Church, Rye
Fri 16th	Daring Beyond Her Sex - Ellen Alpsten, Gill Paul, Patrick Gale	10:30	11:00	1hr	17	The Mermaid Inn, Rye
Fri 16th	Celebrating Saint-Saëns - Margarita Balanas & Antoine Préat	12:30	13:00	1hr	17	St Mary's Church, Rye
Fri 16th	Mother's Boy - Patrick Gale	14:30	15:00	1hr	17	Rye Community Centre

DAY	EVENT	DOORS	STARTS	DURATION	PAGE	VENUE
Fri 16th	Timberlina's Bingo Night	19:00	19:30	2hrs	18	The Brewery Yard, Rye
Fri 16th	The Fay Hield Trio	19:30	20:00	2hrs	18	Rye Community Centre
Sat 17th	Alice in Rye Wonderland - interactive outdoor App based game	Anytime 09:00-14:00		2hrs	18	All around Rye
Sat 17th	E.F. Benson Morning - the man behind Mapp & Lucia	9:30	10:00	3hrs	19	Rye Community Centre
Sat 17th	Kate Garner & her Band - Songs from the 1920s	19:00	19:30	2½hrs	19	Rye Community Centre
Sun 18th	Spinach - a play by E. F. Benson - Rye Players (also at 15:30)	11:00	11:30	1hr	20	The Mermaid Inn, Rye
Sun 18th	Unsettled Ground - Claire Fuller	14:30	15:00	1hr	20	Rye Baptist Church
Sun 18th	Wilde Without The Boy - Gerard Logan	18:45	19:30	2hrs	20	Rye Community Centre
Mon 19th	Enid Blyton: A Literary Life - Andrew Maunder	14:30	15:00	1hr	21	The George in Rye (Ballroom)
Mon 19th	Film - The Crying Game	20:00	20:15	2hrs	21	Kino Cinema, Rye
Tue 20th	Romney Marsh Churches Tour	9:45	10:00	6½hrs	21	Rye Station Forecourt
Tue 20th	The Great Passion - James Runcie	14:30	15:00	1hr	22	St Mary's Church, Rye
Tue 20th	A Conversation with Noel Varley	18:00	18:30	1hr	22	Rye Heritage Centre
Tue 20th	Film - The Harder They Come (1972)	20:00	20:15	2hrs	22	Kino Cinema, Rye
Wed 21st	The Potteries of Rye - Chris O'Donoghue	10:30	11:00	1hr	23	The George in Rye (Ballroom)
Wed 21st	Rye Harbour Nature Walk - Dr Barry Yates (also 23 <sup>rd</sup> )		11:30	2½hrs	23	Rye Harbour Car Park
Wed 21st	Writers in Romney Marsh, Part Two - Dr Pat Argar	14:30	15:00	1hr	23	Rye Harbour Discovery Centre
Wed 21st	How United is our Kingdom? - Gavin Esler	19:00	19:30	1hr	24	The George in Rye (Ballroom)
Thu 22nd	Fantasy - Victor Lim & Sirius Chau	12:30	13:00	1hr	24	St Mary's Church, Rye
Thu 22nd	If These Stones Could Talk - Peter Stanford	14:30	15:00	1hr	24	St Mary's Church, Rye
Thu 22nd	Murder Before Evensong - Rev Richard Coles	18:30	19:00	1hr	25	St Mary's Church, Rye
Thu 22nd	366 Days of Kindness - Bernadette Russell	18:30	19:00	1hr	25	The Brewery Yard, Rye
Fri 23rd	Seaside Flowers of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve - Dr Barry Yates	14:30	15:00	1½hrs	25	Rye Harbour Discovery Centre
Fri 23rd	Writing Ourselves In - a discussion chaired by Nathan Evans	14:30	15:00	1½hrs	26	The Brewery Yard, Rye
Fri 23rd	Bold Queer Poetry Soirée	18:45	19:30	2hrs	26	The Brewery Yard, Rye
Fri 23rd	Brooks Williams & Aaron Catlow - Guitar & Fiddle Duo	19:30	20:00	2hrs	26	Rye Community Centre
Sat 24th	A Salacious Tour of Rye - Timberlina (also at 15:00)		11:00	1½hrs	27	4-5 Lion Street, Rye
Sat 24th	The Unique Voice of the Double Bass - Toby Hughes	12:30	13:00	1hr	27	St Mary's Church, Rye
Sat 24th	Kadialy Kouyaté Sound Archive - Traditional West African Music	19:30	20:00	2hrs	27	Rye Community Centre
Sat 24th	Opera Evening - Seasons of Love	18:45	19:30	1½hrs	28	St Mary's Church, Rye
Sun 25th	Rye at War - Guided Walk	10:15	10:30	2hrs	28	Rye Heritage Centre
Sun 25th	A Winchelsea & Rye Musical Pilgrimage - The Victoria Consort	14:30	15:00	5hrs	29	St Thomas' Church, Winchelsea

## Venue Map

### KEY

- ① Rye Community Centre
- ② St Mary's Church
- ③ St. Mary's Centre
- ④ Lamb House
- ⑤ The Mermaid Inn
- ⑥ Kino Cinema
- ⑦ The George in Rye
- ⑧ The Brewery Yard
- ⑨ Winchelsea Church
- ⑩ The Buttermarket
- ⑪ Rye Heritage Centre
- Rye Harbour Nature Reserve & Discovery Centre
- ⑬ Rye Baptist Church
- ⑭ Gun Garden
- ⑮ Bus Stop

**P** Car Parks

**WC** Public Toilets

**i** Tourist Information Centre (Town Hall)





## FRIDAY 9th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 12:30 Starts: 13:00 1 hour



### Rhythms & Waves

Percussionist James Larter is a 2021 City Music Foundation Artist and plays an eclectic programme of music for marimba, percussion and electronics. Featuring original compositions by the performer as well as arrangements of classics, the rhythmic and tonal landscapes are tied together by ripples and stillness.



Venue: St Mary's Church  
Rye TN31 7HF  
Tickets: £12



## FRIDAY 9th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 14:30 Starts: 15:00 1 hour



### Godmersham Park – Gill Hornby

From the author of the Sunday Times bestselling *Miss Austen*, which was picked as one of the best novels of the year by *The Times*, *Observer* and *Stylist*, comes a wonderfully original, emotionally complex novel. Set in 1804 the novel follows Anne Sharp, a governess who became close to Jane Austen and her family.

*"So good, so intelligent, so clever,  
so entertaining – I adored it."*  
Claire Tomalin

Venue: Rye Community Centre  
Rye TN31 7LE  
Tickets: £12



## FRIDAY 9th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 19:00 Starts: 19:30 1½ hours



### Inside the Archers

Join us to find out how the world's longest running continuing drama, BBC Radio 4's 71-year-old *The Archers*, is made when Jeremy Howe (who has been the editor of the programme since 2018) and Felicity Finch (who has played Ruth Archer since 1987) will be in conversation about what makes the show so enduringly successful.

Venue: Rye Community Centre  
Rye TN31 7LE  
Tickets: £15





## Buzz

12:30 & 15:00, Gun Garden - 35mins each performance

Come and join Billy Bumble as he shrinks down to bee-size and learns about the troubles that they face. Featuring spell-binding puppetry and a giant honeycomb set, join us for a whirlwind ride, avoiding grumpy Mr Fred and the gaping jaws of Shredder the dog!

Featuring a blend of puppetry (large-scale and table-top), captivating music and bright, colourful visuals, Buzz is a chance for families to learn about the importance of Bees in our ecosystem and what we can all do, at home (with a gift of wildflower seeds), to help them thrive.

The show includes a playful look at scale (think micro-scale for major fun) and some light-hearted audience engagement, giving the audience a chance to see things from a Bee's-eye-view.

## Tree Fellas

Starts 12:00, continues throughout the afternoon, around the town

Back by popular demand this hilarious, interactive comedy walkabout featuring a tree family looking for somewhere to settle down. The walking and talking trees blend in with human behaviour, interact and cause gentle chaos by putting down roots in the wrong place, telling stories about their ancient lives, playing games with the humans and bringing nature's beauty to town. The more you interact with these two oversized trees and one sapling puppet, the more fun you will have...



## Campers

13:30 & 16:00 - 30mins each performance, in The Citadel

Hilarious comic walkabout show that will have you in stitches! Two workmates set off on their annual charity work do and, this year, they're Camping For Conjunctivitis. They think nothing can go wrong... but of course it does! Follow Judith and Cindy around town to hear about their calamities and how they try and resolve them. Feel free to try and help them! The farcical events unfold through a blend of physical comedy, vegetable puppetry and 90s pop classics.

**FREE** Activities for the whole family. Participate in the free and fun events taking place in and around Rye's streets and in the historic citadel.

Rye's much-loved ukulele group, the Rue Band, will be playing outside The Kino Cinema at 11:00 and Adams of Rye at 14:00



## SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 10:00 Starts: 10:10 1 hour



### Captain Pugwash OAP\*

Captain Pugwash was first shown on BBC TV 65 years ago and to celebrate his OAP status we are showing a few of the episodes for all to enjoy. Isabel Ryan, daughter of the creator John Ryan, will demonstrate some of the original animations and talk about her father's inspiration for the much-loved character and the rest of his crew on *The Black Pig*, and arch enemy Cut-Throat Jake's ship, *The Flying Dustman*.

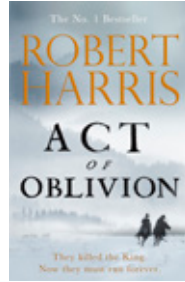
\*Old Age Pirate!

Venue: Kino Cinema, Lion Street  
Rye TN31 7LB  
Tickets: £12



## SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 11:30 Starts: 12:00 1 hour



### Robert Harris

We are delighted to welcome best-selling writer Robert Harris to Rye for the first time. Turning his masterly pen to the dramatic manhunt for the murderers of King Charles I, the bestselling author of *Munich* and *V2* delivers a gripping, continent-spanning tale about treason and justice - a story of the greatest manhunt of the 17th century. *Act of Oblivion* is an epic journey across continents, and a chase like no other. It is a thrilling new novel from one of the world's most exciting writers.

Venue: St Mary's Church  
Rye TN31 7HF  
Tickets: £15



## SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 14:30 Starts: 15:00 1 hour



### Winchelsea – Alex Preston

Novelist Alex Preston will be in conversation with Adam Nicolson to discuss his new novel, *Winchelsea*, an electrifying story of smuggling, vengeance and transformation set in the famous 18th Century Sussex town on the edges of Romney Marsh and on the High Seas!

"Imagine Daphne du Maurier crossed with Quentin Tarantino, and you will have some idea of just what a thrilling, bloody and heady ride this novel is" *Tom Holland*

Venue: St Mary's Church  
Rye TN31 7HF  
Tickets: £12



## SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 18:45 Starts: 19:30 2 hours



### A Feast of Strings

With Margarita Balanas (Soloist): also featuring Yume Fujise and Christopher Jones (Violin), Lucy Nolan and Kay Stephen (Viola), Peggy Nolan & Stephanie Tress (Cello) and Toby Hughes (Double Bass). All are City Music Foundation Artists.

**Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** –  
Souvenir de Florence

**Antonin Leopold Dvořák** –  
Cello Concerto, arr. by  
Lucie Treacher for  
string quintet.



Venue: St Mary's Church  
Rye TN31 7HF  
Tickets: £20, £15



## SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 19:30 Starts: 20:00 2 hours



### Mountain Firework Company

Front man/guitarist Gareth McGahan writes songs that often sound traditional and are performed by a group of consummate musicians whose influences include folk, blues, country, Americana and more.

Apart from guitars, double bass and drums, also look out for fiddle, mandolin and Swedish nyckelharpa. The band is always popular, so early booking is strongly recommended.

Venue: Rye Community Centre  
Rye TN31 7LE  
Tickets: £15



## SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER

Starts: 12:00 3 hours



Singers on stage from 12.00  
Pugwash stories 12.00 & 14.30  
Raft Race 12.45  
Pugwash workshop from 14.00

### Avast Me Hearties!

The return of the wonderful Festival of the Sea coincides this year with the first weekend of the Rye Arts Festival. Come down to the river to watch the watery fun and make a Pugwash mask/ moving puppet at our stall. Listen to some Captain Pugwash stories and a variety of musicians on the main stage, or just drop by and chat with the Rye Arts Festival organisers about our event-packed Festival Fortnight. We shall have a paddling pool with our own miniature raft race!

Venue: The Salts,  
Rye  
Tickets: Free



## SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 18:45 Starts: 19:30 1½ hours



### Piano Recital

CMF Alumna Cordelia Williams brings us an emotionally profound sequence of music taken from her award-winning 2021 album *Nightlight*. From Tomkins to Schubert, via jazz pianist Bill Evans, these works recognise the shifting qualities of night-time and the solace found in music.

"Extraordinary... Williams unapologetically takes her place among the most eloquent exponents of this great work in recent years."  
*Gramophone*



Venue: St Mary's Church  
Rye TN31 7HF

Tickets: £20, £15



## MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

Starts: 10:00 3 hours



### Discover Rye Harbour

Join this informative nature walk and have a look at the Autumn wildlife of the inland half of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve with its manager Dr Barry Yates.

Barry has been at the reserve for 38 years and is a font of knowledge. This is a 2.5 mile circular route including a visit inside the 16th century Camber Castle and also to a birdwatching hide.

Bring binoculars if you have them, and wear sensible shoes!

Leaving from Rye Heritage Centre  
Strand Quay, Rye TN31 7AY  
Tickets: £13

## MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 13:30 Starts: 14:00 1 hour



### In Godwin's Own Country

When British photographer Fay Godwin entered the environmental debate during the early 1980s, she shone a spotlight on different areas of her adopted home turf in East Sussex.

This talk will focus on continuities and changes in the region since those days, and how Fay's shadow still falls across the landscape.

Dr Geraldine Alexander is an art historian and writer who is currently working on the British Library's Fay Godwin archive.

Venue: Rye Harbour Discovery Centre  
Rye TN31 7FW  
Tickets: £12



## MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 18:45 Starts: 19:30 1½ hours



### Musical Connections

Two star soloists come together in an exciting new partnership: we are delighted to welcome pianist Cordelia Williams ("extraordinary"; "profound") and violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen ("mesmerising").

Their programme is unusual and highly imaginative, exploring the connections between JS Bach and Arvo Pärt before treating us to three musical gems by Claude Debussy and Robert Schumann's passionate Sonata No. 2 in D minor.



Venue: St Mary's Church  
Rye TN31 7HF  
Tickets: £20, £15



## TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER

Starts: 11:00 1½ hours



Also on 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>,  
19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> &  
24<sup>th</sup> Sept

### Winchelsea Cellar Tours

There are seven tours over the two weeks of the Festival. These fascinating tours, led by knowledgeable local guides, enter some of Winchelsea's original 13th Century barrel-vaulted cellars, which are normally closed to the public. They give an insight into the history of Winchelsea, once a leading member of the Cinque Ports Confederation. Please bring a torch and wear sensible shoes as access to some cellars is difficult.

Booking is essential. 15-person limit per tour. Please note no small children or animals are allowed.

Meet at the Town Well  
Castle Street, Winchelsea TN36 4EL  
Tickets: £10

## TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER

Starts: 11:00 2 hours



Also on 16<sup>th</sup>,  
20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Sept

### Hidden Rye – Guided Walk

Follow the commanding Rye Town Crier on a gentle walk around the "Antient Town" of Rye, revealing its fascinating, strange and sometimes grim history. Learn the story of this historic Cinque Port and find out about the artists, pirates, fishermen, witches and writers who shaped it. Your ticket includes admission to the Town Hall and its unique attic museum, not usually open to the public.

Please note the walk is on cobbled streets. Sensible shoes are advised.

Meet at The Buttermarket, TN31 7LA  
(In front of the Town Hall)  
Tickets: £15



**TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER**

Doors: 10:30 Starts: 11:00 1 hour



## Malcolm Saville's Sussex

2022 marks the 40th anniversary of the death of the once popular children's writer Malcolm Saville. In this fascinating talk, Elaine Luke focuses on Malcolm's life and writing, particularly his use of our local landscape for the settings of some of his books, with their vivid descriptions of locations in and around his much-loved Rye.

**TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER**

Doors: 14:30 Starts: 15:00 1 hour



## The Edwardian Era

Rye and Romney Marsh have long been a haunt for writers of fiction, and the Edwardian years, from the turn of the century to the beginning of the First World War, were no exception. Most famously, Henry James but also Joseph Conrad, Ford Madox Ford and Edith Nesbit as well as some you may never have heard of! Find out about their writing, their lives and their abiding love of this small corner of Great Britain, from Dr Pat Argar.

**TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER**

Doors: 18:45 Starts: 19:30 1 hour



## Russia – Riddle, Mystery & Enigma, with Lord David Owen

Britain's relationship with Russia has varied dramatically over the last two centuries; battling each other in the Crimean War, allying together against Nazi Germany, then regarding one another with growing suspicion. Lord David Owen – politician, author and historian – in conversation with Martin Bruce, explores the events of the last 200 years, the characters involved and the results of the successes and failures in diplomacy.

Venue: St Mary's Centre  
Lion Street, Rye TN31 7LB  
Tickets: £12



Venue: Rye Baptist Church  
Rye, TN31 7AN  
Tickets: £12



Venue: St Mary's Church  
Rye TN31 7HF  
Tickets: £15



## WEDNESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER

Starts: 11:00 and 14:00 1 hour



Join us at Lamb House, the home of E.F. Benson, for a selection of his stories read by actors Richard Crowest and Rosalyn Landor. There will be two sessions - the first at 11am will feature Richard, who will read extracts focusing on *The Gentlemen of Tilling*. At 2pm, Rosalyn will join Richard to read some lovely extracts from the Mapp & Lucia novels and other works by Benson.

### E.F. Benson Storytime for Adults



#### Richard Crowest

Richard is an actor and voice over artist with over 20 years experience in theatre, radio and television. He's voiced literally thousands of radio commercials and has worked extensively in the heritage world. He can be heard at dozens of National Trust properties and is the voice of Rudyard Kipling at Bateman's. His readings of Saki and E. F. Benson are enjoyed around the world.



#### Rosalyn Landor

A child actress in the 1960s and 70s, Rosalyn has appeared in numerous films and worked with some of the biggest names in the business including Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, Bette Davis, Angela Lansbury, Christopher Lee and Jeremy Brett. On television she starred in the definitive adaption of the Sherlock Holmes story *The Speckled Band* with Jeremy Brett, in *Love in a Cold Climate* with Judi Dench and as Fiona Always in four episodes of *Rumpole of the Bailey*.

## WEDNESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 16:00 Starts: 16:30 1 hour



### The Challenges of Journalism Today

Award-winning investigative journalist Nick Davies, who was involved in many landmark cases including uncovering the phone-hacking scandal in Rupert Murdoch's newspaper empire, discusses the many challenges facing journalism today. With social media and misinformation breaking down public trust, what are the implications for democracy and access to national and local news?

Venue: Rye Community Centre  
Rye TN31 7LE

Tickets: £12  
(free to 18s and under)





## WEDNESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER

Event Starts: 20:30 1½ hours



### Spooky Rye – Ghost Walk

Don your sensible shoes, the walk will be at night over cobbles, and be ready to be spooked! Rye's Town Crier will lead the eerie walk around the nooks and crannies of one of the reputedly most haunted towns in England.

Hear tales of ghosts, witches, poltergeists, murders most foul, deadly deeds and dark historic happenings that might still echo through our night-time streets to this day. Not for the faint hearted!

Meet at The Buttermarket, TN31 7LA  
(In front of the Town Hall)  
Tickets: £15

## WEDNESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 20:00 Starts: 20:15 2 hours



### Cabaret

Marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of the iconic film *Cabaret*, we show the multi-Academy Award winning movie starring Liza Minelli as Sally Bowles, supported by Michael York.

For a fraction of the price of a ticket for the current West End theatre revival, come and see the original musical on the silver screen! Sit back and experience the Kit Kat Club in 1930s Berlin as the good times are set against a backdrop of the rise of the Nazis!

Venue: Kino Cinema, Lion Street  
Rye TN31 7LB  
Tickets: £12



## THURSDAY 15th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 12:30 Starts: 13:00 1 hour



### Between Dreams and Reality

Winner of the Philip and Dorothy Green Award 2020 and a City Music Foundation Artist, Franco-Belgian pianist Antoine Pr  at is described by French Radio as "one of the most gifted pianists of his generation".

In this beautifully chosen programme featuring works by Mozart, Debussy, Schumann and Scriabin, Antoine explores the lyrical and mysterious world between dreams and reality.

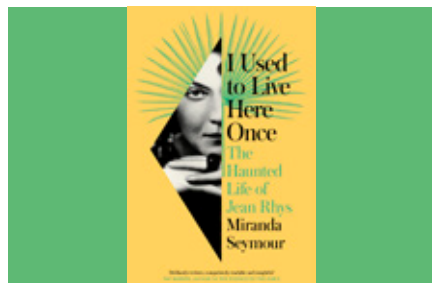


Venue: St Mary's Church  
Rye TN31 7HF  
Tickets: £12



## THURSDAY 15th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 14:30 Starts: 15:00 1 hour



### The Haunted Life of Jean Rhys

After huge early success, writer Jean Rhys vanished from view for 25 years. She was rediscovered in the 70s, becoming world famous in her eighties and taken to the heart of 'cool' London with drugs, sex and rock 'n' roll going on all around her. Celebrated biographer Miranda Seymour will speak about her intimate, revealing and profoundly moving biography of this extraordinary writer, who has again become a cult figure, with excerpts from Rhys' books read by John Case.

Venue: Rye Baptist Church  
Rye TN31 7AN  
Tickets: £12

## THURSDAY 15th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 18:30 Starts: 19:00 1 hour



### Stop Trying to be Fantastic

From award-winning writer/performer Molly Naylor comes this lyrical and funny spoken-word show about ambition, altruism and how to be medium good. This is a story about suffering, and the lengths we go to avoid it. It charts one human's attempts to win at life via a range of adventurous mistakes. It's about getting stuck between what we owe to each other and what we owe to ourselves.

FREE LIVE MUSIC  
EVENT AFTERWARDS



Venue: The Brewery Yard  
Landgate, Rye TN31 7LH  
Tickets: £12



## THURSDAY 15th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 18:45 Starts: 19:30 1½ hours



### La Tempesta di Mare

Sounds of Baroque Venice inspired by Canaletto's famous views of Venice. **Ensemble Hesperii** presents a programme celebrating instrumental and vocal music by Venetian Baroque composers including Vivaldi, Castello, Picchi, Monteverdi and Handel.

**Ensemble Hesperii:** Mary-Jannet Leith (Recorders), Magdalena Loth-Hill (Baroque Violin), Florence Petit (Baroque Cello), Thomas Allery (Harpsichord)

Harriet Burns - Soprano  
Richard Robbins - Tenor



Venue: St Mary's Church  
Rye TN31 7HF  
Tickets: £20, £15



## FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 10:30 Starts: 11:00 1 hour



### Daring Beyond Her Sex

Women who dared to defy the conventions of their time to become who they were to find an important voice in current literature. Join us for what is sure to be a lively and stimulating panel discussion with bestselling writers Ellen Alpsten, Gill Paul and Patrick Gale, as we look at the women who dared to defy the conventions of their time to become who they were to find an important voice in current literature.

## FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 12:30 Starts: 13:00 1 hour



### Celebrating Saint-Sa  ns

Known for her distinguished artistry and mesmerising stage presence, cellist Margarita Balanas has performed to audiences world-wide, being hailed as "*powerful, delicate, intense and brilliant*" and is joined by rising star Antoine Pr  at, winner of the Philip and Dorothy Green Young Artist Award 2020 in a programme of works celebrating the French composer Camille Saint-Sa  ns.

Both are City Music Foundation Artists.



## FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 14:30 Starts: 15:00 1 hour



### Mother's Boy

Best-selling novelist Patrick Gale discusses his critically acclaimed new work, *Mother's Boy*, a moving historical novel set in Cornwall. Laura raises her son Charles alone after her husband returns from WWI, damaged and dying. She gradually realises her son is a genius. Charles joins the Navy as a coder and blossoms as he experiences both the possibility of death and the constant danger of a love as clandestine as his work. A story of class, desire and two world wars inspired by the boyhood of Cornish poet Charles Causley.

Tudor Room, Mermaid Inn  
Rye TN31 7EY  
Tickets: £12  
LIMITED ACCESS



Venue: St Mary's Church  
Rye TN31 7HF  
Tickets: £12



Venue: Rye Community Centre  
Rye TN31 7LE  
Tickets: £12



## FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 19:00 Starts: 19:30 2 hours



### Timberlina's Bingo Night

From museums to spit and sawdust venues, via the longest serving weekly drag bingo night at the legendary Royal Vauxhall Tavern in London, join hilarious hirsute hostess Timberlina and DJ leg-end Auntie Maureen for 3 rounds of irreverent bingo like no other, featuring impromptu dance routines, spontaneous sing-alongs and topical rants. Followed by a disco. Suitable for 16+.



Venue: The Brewery Yard  
Landgate, Rye TN31 7LH  
Tickets: £10



## FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 19:30 Starts: 20:00 2 hours



### The Fay Hield Trio

We are delighted to welcome folk singer Fay Hield. Fay has one of the finest voices of her generation and is supported by Sam Sweeney (ex Bellowhead) on fiddle and Rob Harbron, "a concertina wizard" *The Guardian*.

Her first two solo albums, *Looking Glass* and *Orfeo*, were released on the prestigious Topic Records folk label. Her choice of material and delivery reflect a rare sensibility and appreciation of the tradition and is highly distinctive.

Venue: Rye Community Centre  
Rye TN31 7LE  
Tickets: £15



## SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER

Start anytime between 09:00 and 14:00



### Alice in Rye Wonderland

Follow Alice down the rabbit hole and enter a topsy turvy world of intrigue and mystery in this outdoor, escape-room style event. Cryptic clues and characters will be revealed as you walk the cobbled streets of the historic town. All you need is a mobile phone, an inquisitive mind and your wits about you. Drinking of potions is not obligatory!

You will receive an email, complete with instructions, the day before your adventure starts.

Clues placed all around Rye  
Ticket: £24 allows app downloads for up to four players

## SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 09:30 Starts: 10:00 Duration: 3 hours



Lamb House will be open in the afternoon should you wish to visit the home of E. F. Benson, or just soak up the atmosphere of Rye and stroll around the town and see the many locations featured in the books, and in both the 1985/86 Channel 4 series and the 2014 adaptation of the novels shown on the BBC.

### Celebrating E. F. Benson - A Morning Investigating His Life, Work & Circle

2022 sees the centenary of the publication of *Miss Mapp*, the second book in the very popular *Mapp & Lucia* series which introduces us to that dear social tyrant from the coastal town of Tilling (Rye). But what about the man behind these novels? Join us as we celebrate the life and works of Fred Benson, who made Rye his home for the last 21 years of his life. Speakers are Allan Downend and Keith Cavers from the E. F. Benson Society and Dominic Janes, Professor of Modern History at Keele University.

#### Programme:

- 10:00 - 10:45 Allan Downend - an overview of Benson's life and work
- 11:00 - 11:45 Keith Cavers on Benson's school and university days
- 12:00 - 12:45 Dominic Janes on Fred Benson and the wider 'Queer' Society

We are grateful to the E. F. Benson Society for supporting this event.

Venue: Rye Community Centre  
Rye TN31 7LE  
Tickets: £15



## SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 19:00 Starts: 19:30 2½ hours



### Kate Garner and her Band

Singer/songwriter and creator of *Mapp & Lucia - The Musical*, Kate returns to Rye for an evening of toe tapping tunes from the 1920s. She will also be celebrating E. F. Benson with a selection of songs from her musical and a debut performance of *Miss Mapp*, a song she has written to commemorate the centenary of the book's publication.

During the interval, Kate welcomes her special guests, professional dance instructors Hoc and Mark, who will be delighted to teach you the Charleston!

Venue: Rye Community Centre  
Rye TN31 7LE  
Tickets: £15





## SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER

Event Starts: 11:30 & 15:30 1 hour



### Spinach – a play by E. F. Benson

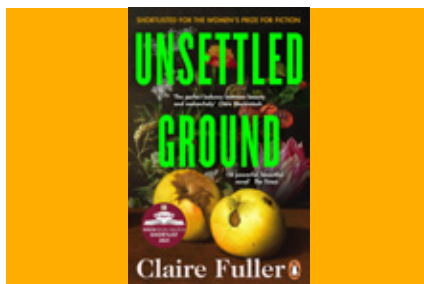
E. F. Benson's ghost stories are a less well-known aspect of this Rye resident's prolific talent. In *Spinach* (first published in *Spook Stories* 1928), siblings Ludovic and Sylvia Byron work as mediums and they find they are never short of credulous clients hoping to communicate with the dead. This creepy comedy has been adapted for the stage by Andrew Mayor and is directed by Patricia Driver. Performed by Rye Shakespeare Company and Rye Players.

Tudor Room, Mermaid Inn  
Rye TN31 7EY  
Tickets: £8  
LIMITED ACCESS



## SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 14:30 Starts: 15:00 1 hour



### Unsettled Ground

One of our very best contemporary novelists, Claire Fuller's stunning novel about middle-aged twins whose carefully cultivated existence on the fringes of society begins to unravel following the death of their mother, rightly won her the 2021 Costa Novel Award. Come and hear about the craft behind this redemptive, unforgettable book and her sharp yet sumptuous prose.

Venue: Rye Baptist Church  
Rye, TN31 7AN  
Tickets: £12



## SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 18:45 Starts: 19:30 2 hours



### Wilde Without The Boy

Gareth Armstrong's dramatisation of *De Profundis*, the passionate letter Oscar Wilde wrote to his lover, Lord Alfred Douglas, from his gaol cell towards the end of Wilde's prison sentence for gross indecency. Gerard Logan gives a brilliant and revelatory performance as Wilde in a dramatisation of one of the greatest love letters in history. Gerard Logan will then perform Wilde's haunting poem *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*, which narrates the execution of a fellow prisoner. It is underpinned by Simon Slater's beautiful and specially commissioned musical score.

Venue: Rye Community Centre  
Rye TN31 7LE  
Tickets: £15





## MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 14:30 Starts: 15:00 1 hour



### Enid Blyton: A Literary Life

Enid Blyton is one of the most loved, and also one of the most controversial writers for children of the past 100 years, selling over 600 million books worldwide and continuing to sell.

In conversation with John Case, Andrew Maunder, author of *Enid Blyton: A Literary Life*, reassesses the Blyton phenomenon, looking at the woman behind the myth and the vast range of work she produced.

## MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 20:00 Starts: 20:15 2 hours



### The Crying Game

Set against the backdrop of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, this 1992 film won an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay as well as a host of Baftas, and was a big commercial as well as critical success. The film looks at themes of sex and sexuality, race and nationality, and 30 years after its release, resonates with today.

## TUESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER

Meet: 09:45 Starts: 10:00 6½ hours



### Romney Marsh Churches Tour

The historic churches of Romney Marsh are architectural gems. Our expert guides will take us around churches at Fairfield, Ivychurch, St Mary in the Marsh and Old Romney. Note: getting to St Thomas Becket at Fairfield involves a 10-minute walk to and from the church so do make sure to wear appropriate footwear.

The ticket price includes lunch – please advise your meal choice and any dietary requirements at time of booking.

Venue: The George Hotel Ballroom  
Rye TN31 7JT  
Tickets: £12



Venue: Kino Cinema, Lion Street  
Rye TN31 7LB  
Tickets: £12

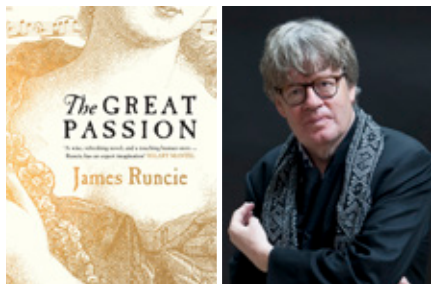


Coach departs from and returns  
to Rye Station Forecourt  
Tickets: £48



## TUESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 14:30 Starts: 15:00 1 hour



### The Great Passion

Bach's St Matthew Passion is one of the greatest pieces of music ever written. But what was it like to play, sing and hear it for the first time? Author James Runcie talks about the imaginative research involved in writing his new novel *The Great Passion*, the story behind the inspiration, composition, rehearsal and first performance of Bach's masterpiece in April 1727.

Venue: St Mary's Church  
Rye TN31 7HF  
Tickets: £12



## TUESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 18:00 Starts: 18:30 1 hour



### Noel Varley In Conversation

Join long-time Rye Noel in conversation. Listen to his life adventures and humorous anecdotes from his time in Rye (born here in the 1930s). Noel has memories of WW2 right up to today's world of active retirement and playing Boules. There will also be an opportunity to see the wonderful large-scale Rye Town Model.

Venue: Rye Heritage Centre  
Strand Quay, Rye TN31 7AY  
Tickets: £10



## TUESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 20:00 Starts: 20:15 2 hours



### The Harder They Come

Released 50 years ago, this Jamaican film put reggae on the world map. Starring Jimmy Cliff, it has possibly the best soundtrack of any film, with songs by many of the reggae greats providing a pulsating backdrop to scenes shot in rural and urban Jamaica. A gritty crime story, we root for country boy Jimmy Cliff as he tries to escape grinding poverty.

Venue: Kino Cinema, Lion Street  
Rye TN31 7LB  
Tickets: £12



## WEDNESDAY 21st SEPTEMBER

Doors: 10:30 Starts: 11:00 1 hour



### The Potteries of Rye

Chris O'Donoghue was one of the original Rye Potters, making ceramic cottages that were sold all over the world. He has provided pottery moulds for all the other Rye Potters as well as making a number of original models for the prestigious Rye Pottery.

He has also written several crime novels based around Rye and Romney Marsh in the 1950s and designed numerous gardens, as well as winning three medals at the Chelsea Flower Show.

## WEDNESDAY 21st SEPTEMBER

Event Starts: 11:30 2½ hours



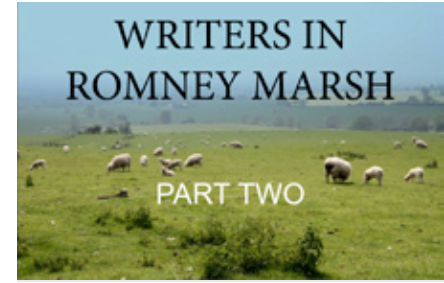
### Rye Harbour Nature Walk

Join a small group to explore the natural beauty of this carefully managed habitat, guided by Dr Barry Yates, who has been at the Nature Reserve for 38 years, and find out its hidden secrets.

It is a 2-mile circular route and is suitable for mobility scooters, finishing at The Discovery Centre for a well earned cup of tea. Bring binoculars if you have them, as you will visit birdwatching hides.

## WEDNESDAY 21st SEPTEMBER

Doors: 14:30 Starts: 15:00 1 hour



### The Long Weekend

Rye and Romney Marsh continued to lure writers to our unique corner of the world between the two World Wars. Sheila Kaye-Smith was in her heyday, Radclyffe Hall lived and wrote in Rye, Smallhythe Place played host to Ellen Terry's daughter and her friends and Russell Thorndike wrote the first of his famous smuggling tales. Dr Pat Argar will talk about these and other writers that may be new to you who also took up residence here to pursue their creative work.

Venue: The George Hotel Ballroom  
Rye TN31 7JT  
Tickets: £12



Meet at Rye Harbour Car Park  
Harbour Road, TN31 7TX  
Tickets: £10



Venue: Rye Harbour Discovery Centre  
Rye TN31 7FW  
Tickets: £12



## WEDNESDAY 21st SEPTEMBER

Doors: 19:00 Starts: 19:30 1 hour



### How United is our Kingdom?

We are delighted to welcome back broadcaster and journalist Gavin Esler, whose last event for the Festival in 2019 sold out very quickly. In tonight's programme, Gavin asks the questions "How Britain ends? How United is our United Kingdom?"

The session will be interactive, with an informative 30 minute talk from Gavin followed by a Q & A session from the audience and an opportunity to put your point of view.

Venue: The George Hotel Ballroom  
Rye TN31 7JT  
Tickets: £12



## THURSDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER

Doors: 12:30 Starts: 13:00 1 hour



### Fantasy – Victor Lim

Described as a pianist with "with great possibilities of nuance and perfect flexibility" (*Revista Arta*), South Korean-British pianist Victor Lim is establishing himself as one of the most versatile and creative musicians of his generation.

He is joined by rising flautist Sirius Chau, who has recently won *Making Music's* Philip and Dorothy Green Young Artist Award.

Both are City Music Foundation Artists.

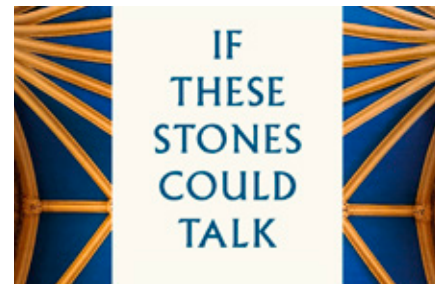


Venue: St Mary's Church  
Rye TN31 7HF  
Tickets: £12



## THURSDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER

Doors: 14:30 Starts: 15:00 1 hour



### If These Stones Could Talk

Best selling historian Peter Stanford unlocks a unique history of Christianity in the British Isles, told through its sacred buildings – from ancient wooden churches and medieval priories to remote island monasteries and lofty cathedrals – one chosen for each century.

*"A heavenly book, elegant and thoughtful. Get one for yourself and one for the church-crawler in your life!"* Lucy Worsley

Venue: St Mary's Church  
Rye TN31 7HF  
Tickets: £12



## THURSDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER

Doors: 18:30 Starts: 19:00 1 hour



### Murder Before Evensong

Join us for a talk with the wonderful Reverend Richard Coles, discussing his debut crime novel. *Murder Before Evensong* is perfect for fans of *The Thursday Murder Club* – this brilliant crime debut sees the sleepy parish of Champton descend into unexpected chaos, setting Canon Daniel Clement on a hunt for a murderer.

*"Whodunnit fans can give praise and rejoice"* Ian Rankin

*"I've been waiting for a novel with vicars, rude old ladies, murder and sausage dogs"* Dawn French

Venue: St Mary's Church  
Rye TN31 7HF  
Tickets: £15



## THURSDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER

Doors: 18:30 Starts: 19:00 1 hour



### 366 Days of Kindness

Join us to hear the true story of Bernadette Russell's mission to answer the question "can kindness change the world?" by carrying out an act of kindness for a total stranger every day for 366 days.

This is a comedy about how, despite what we are told about the state of the world, there is more love than hate, more hope than fear, more good than bad. All this plus a chance to win a million pounds (really)!

FOLLOWED BY FREE  
LIVE MUSIC



Venue: The Brewery Yard  
Landgate, Rye, TN31 7LH  
Tickets: £12



## FRIDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER

Doors: 14:30 Starts: 15:00 1½ hours



### Seaside Flowers of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Dr Barry Yates, Sussex Wildlife Trust's long-standing Manager at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, will give an illustrated talk in the new Discovery Centre about the flora of the Reserve and to officially launch his book on the same subject.

After the talk, there will be a selection of flower poetry readings from the Rye Harbour Poetry Group.

Venue: Rye Harbour Discovery Centre  
Rye TN31 7FW  
Tickets: £12





## FRIDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER

Doors: 14:30 Starts: 15:00 1½ hours



### Writing Ourselves In

Join us for a celebration of hidden queer histories illuminated in contemporary stories with poet and performer Joelle Taylor, winner of the 2022 TS Eliot Prize; Costa Prize shortlisted writer and director Neil Bartlett, whose mosaic novel *Address Book* was published in 2021, and Sam Kenyon, writer of the RSC's *Miss Littlewood*, whose debut novel *I Am Not Raymond Wallace* is published this month. Chaired by Nathan Evans, editor of Inkandescent - shortlisted for Small Press of 2022 in the British Book Awards.

Venue: The Brewery Yard  
Landgate, Rye TN31 7LH  
Tickets: £12



## FRIDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER

Doors: 18:45 Starts: 19:30 2 hours



### Bold Queer Poetry Soirée

Inkandescent serve up sensational spoken word with a side of music. Host Nathan Evans is joined by writer, performer and UK Poetry Slam champion Keith Jarrett and TS Eliot Prize-winning poet Joelle Taylor.

*"Jarrett's poems are songs that testify, praise and pray. This black British voice is relevant and necessary"* Malika Booker

*"Taylor's poetry roars and soars"*  
Bernardine Evaristo

Venue: The Brewery Yard  
Landgate, Rye TN31 7LH  
Tickets: £12



## FRIDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER

Doors: 19:30 Starts: 20:00 2 hours



### Brooks Williams & Aaron Catlow

Guitarist Williams is best known as an acoustic bluesman and singer/songwriter, whereas fiddler Catlow normally inhabits the world of folk music as a member of Sheelanagig and Afro-Celt Sound System, amongst other things. Here they come together to perform material from both these genres, plus jazz and other areas of music.

Venue: Rye Community Centre  
Rye TN31 7LE  
Tickets: £15





## SATURDAY 24th SEPTEMBER

Events Start: 11:00 & 15:00 1½ hours



### A Salacious Tour of Rye

Join Rye's resident bearded drag lady Timberlina for a discreet, louché stroll around some of Rye's historic and contentious landmarks of salacious gossip and intrigue. High collars, sunglasses and head scarves strongly recommended, as are sensible shoes. Timberlina has delivered sell out exhibition and street tours for the National Portrait and Tate Galleries.

Meet at the cobbled alleyway  
4-5 Lion Street, Rye (near Town Hall)  
Tickets: £15

## SATURDAY 24th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 12:30 Starts: 13:00 1 hour



### The Unique Voice of the Double Bass

From an early age, CMF Artist Toby Hughes was determined to pursue a career as a soloist playing an instrument more familiar to most people in its role at the back of an orchestra or a jazz band. He is at the vanguard of the solo double bass movement and we are delighted to welcome him to Rye to play string pieces by Desenclos, Clara Schumann and Franck. Toby is joined by acclaimed pianist Benjamin Powell in this stirring programme of music written for the double bass.



Venue: St Mary's Church  
Rye TN31 7HF  
Tickets: £12



## SATURDAY 24th SEPTEMBER

Doors: 19:30 Starts: 20:00 2 hours



### Kadialy Kouyaté Sound Archive

Traditional West-African music from Senegalese kora-player/singer/songwriter Kadialy. He has teamed up with a guitarist, bass-player and percussionist to perform works he has written according to his tradition as a *griot* or hereditary musician. Kadialy has released several albums, and makes regular radio and television appearances, as well as teaching the kora at the School of Oriental & African Studies in London.

Venue: Rye Community Centre  
Rye TN31 7LE  
Tickets: £15

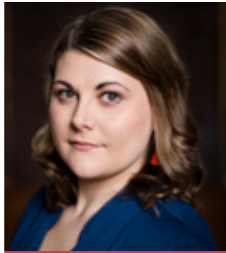


## SATURDAY 24th SEPTEMBER

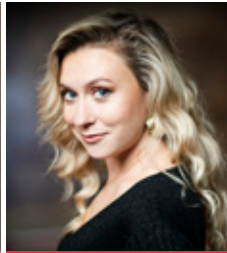
Doors: 18:45 Starts: 19:30 1½ hours



Laura Perešivana



Siân Dicker



Rozanna Madylus



Rokas Valuntonis

### Opera Evening - Seasons of Love

Join us for a celebration of some of the most romantic operatic arias ever written, performed by three rising opera stars accompanied by Lithuanian pianist Rokas Valuntonis, who has been praised for his "liquid sound" and "devilish performances".

Latvian soprano Laura Lolita Perešivana recently performed with English National Opera's Orchestra, with *Opera Magazine* writing "her star quality combined with a sumptuous, penetrating soprano suggest she is ready for any role a big house might throw at her".

Spinto soprano Siân Dicker is in demand for her rich, full-bodied voice and dramatic flair. She has recently worked with the Royal Opera House on *Lost and Found*; a project of newly commissioned operas premiered in St Pancras Station in March 2022.

Described as having "an engaging stage presence" by *The Daily Telegraph* and giving "compelling performances, offering fluid line and gripping conviction" by *Opera Magazine*, British-Ukrainian mezzo-soprano Rozanna Madylus is a regular on the international stage.



## SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER

Meet at 10:15 Starts: 10:30 2 hours



### Rye at War

An informative, guided walk exploring Rye in the 'frontline of conflict', particularly during WW2. The walk will be led by an experienced Rye Heritage Centre guide and will draw on the memories of the Clerk to the Chief of Civil Defence, local anecdotes and historical research. Before the walk there is a viewing of *The Story of Rye* - a sound and light show featuring the iconic Rye Town Model.

Meet at Rye Heritage Centre  
Strand Quay, Rye TN31 7AY  
Tickets: £15

Venue: St Mary's Church  
Rye TN31 7HF  
Tickets: £20, £15



All tonight's performers are  
City Music Foundation Artists.

## SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER

Gather at 14:30 for the first concert in St Thomas' Church, Winchelsea at 15:00.

Refreshments at St Mary's Rye at 18:30, the second concert commences 19:00 (1 hour)

### A Winchelsea & Rye Musical Pilgrimage - The Victoria Consort

Music from the Spanish  
Royal Court in two of East  
Sussex's finest churches



Join us for a magical musical pilgrimage, this time starting from St Thomas' Church in Winchelsea, where The Victoria Consort, a professional choral ensemble will perform music from the Spanish Royal Court, centred around a newly discovered and transcribed Mass, accompanied by Chamber Organ and Theorbo. This performance will last approximately 60 minutes, and there will also be more time to explore the wonderful church dedicated to St Thomas. We will then set out on our pilgrimage to St Mary's Church in Rye, walking through Winchelsea, under the Strand Gate, following a walk that takes us along Sea Road, past Castle Farm,

Camber Castle and Castle Water, heading towards Rye. We will walk at a comfortable pace and the walk should take no longer than an hour and a half to complete. At St Mary's, The Victoria Consort will perform further music from the Spanish Royal Court. The combination of great music, architecture and countryside all come together in this bi-located extravaganza.

Rye Community buses will be available to transport people from Rye to Winchelsea at the start of the pilgrimage at an additional cost of £1 per person. Buses will be available from 14:00 and will depart from the Bus Stop at Rye Station.

Starting from St Thomas' Church, Winchelsea  
via Camber Castle to St Mary's Church, Rye  
Tickets: £25



## MON 19th - FRI 23rd SEPTEMBER

Open 10:00 - 16:00 every day\*



### On The Mapp – E.F. Benson in Rye

The Benson Society is holding an exhibition to complement the E. F. Benson Day in the Rye Arts Festival on Saturday, September 17th and also its own 37 years.

The exhibition will look at E. F. Benson's time in Rye, how he lived, what he wrote and where Rye appears in so many of his books, beside the Tilling novels.

A must see for all Benson fans.

\*Wednesday 13:00-16:00

Venue: St Mary's Centre  
Lion Street, Rye TN31 7LB  
FREE ADMISSION



## EXHIBITIONS AND TALKS AT RYE ART GALLERY

107 High Street, Rye TN31 7JE [www.ryeartgallery.co.uk](http://www.ryeartgallery.co.uk)



SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER - SUNDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2022

### COLONY

#### **Fred Cuming RA, Gus Cummins RA, Mick Rooney RA & Jacqueline Stanley HRHA ARCA**

The liberal dictionary definition of "colony" refers to the organic congregation of artists in towns, villages and rural areas, often drawn by areas of natural beauty with the prior existence of other artists or art schools there, and importantly a lower cost of living. It was perhaps not so surprising that Muriel Belcher, searching out a name for her club and famous artist hang out in Soho, came up with the name 'The Colony Room'.

Our Colony relates to an exceptional group of artists, a close continuity of art and friends working and painting together in our corner of the Kent - Sussex borders.

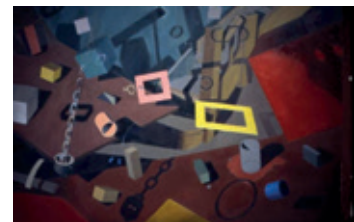
For this exhibition at Rye Art Gallery, we look at new work as well as paintings that reflect on the length and importance of the individual careers of three senior local Royal Academicians - Fred Cuming RA, Gus Cummins RA & Mick Rooney RA. Also, for the first time as part of their friendship circle, Jacqueline Stanley HRHA ARCA.

It is a connection between a generation of painters that Rye Art Gallery has enjoyed for over fifty years, initially through the support of the gallery's exhibitions by the great British landscape painter Fred Cuming RA, who sadly passed away in June.



**The Buoy**

Fred Cuming RA



**Uncertain Hour**

Gus Cummins RA

Open Daily 11:00 - 17:00 (closed Tuesdays)  
Sundays and Bank Holidays 11:00 - 16:00  
FREE ADMISSION TO THE GALLERIES

Limited  
Access

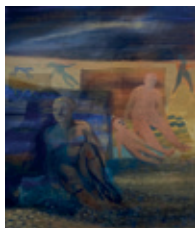


**SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER**

Starts: 18:00 Ends: 20:00

## COLONY Exhibition

Join us at Rye Art Gallery for a curatorial tour and talk about four exceptional artists working locally. Refreshments are included in the ticket price.



**A Meteor Passes**

Mick Rooney RA



**Funfair**

Jacqueline Stanley HRHA ARCA

Venue: Rye Art Gallery  
Rye, TN31 7JE  
Tickets: £12

Limited  
Access



# DIGITAL FRINGE

Following last year's popular series profiling local artists, film-maker Alisdair Kitchen returns with an eclectic programme of content for our Digital Fringe, including the premiere of a new short film, *Pig Tales*, about Rye Pottery's iconic Sussex Pig.

Part sound installation, part musical treasure hunt, *Haydn Seek* is an opportunity to collect the tracks of a specially recorded classical album secreted all over town!

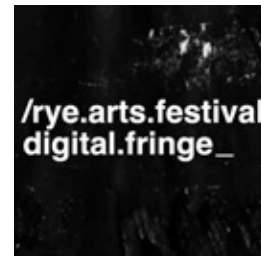


Subscribe to our burgeoning social media channels to stay tuned:

Instagram: @rye\_arts\_festival

Twitter: @Ryearts

YouTube: Rye Arts Digital Fringe





## FRI/SAT 16th/17th SEPTEMBER

Fri: 17:00 - 20:00; Sat: 10:00 - 17:00



### Artists' Open Studios

Do pay a visit to the Artists' Open Studios at Rye Creative Centre – an opportunity to meet over 30 inspiring artists & designer-makers to find out more about their work.

The on-site café is open all day, serving hot and cold drinks, a light lunchtime menu and sweet treats.

For further information see:  
[www.ryecreativecentre.co.uk](http://www.ryecreativecentre.co.uk)

Rye Creative Centre, New Road  
Rye TN31 7LS  
FREE ENTRY



## SAT/SUN 17th/18th SEPTEMBER

Open 10:00 to 17:00 both days



### Rye & District Camera Club

Our first exhibition for three years will showcase work from 13 photographers and will cover many different genres. The club is well known for the quality of its work, as proven in the recent Sussex county championships, when we finished equal first on points, a feat that has been achieved several times in the past.

Come and cast a vote for your favourite print.

Venue: St Mary's Centre  
Lion Street, Rye TN31 7LB  
FREE ADMISSION



## WED 14th-MON 26th SEPTEMBER

Open 11:00 to 17:00 every day



### The Gaia Exhibition

Come and see a collection of paintings by mixed-media artist Kate Hickmott created specially to help safeguard wildlife and wild spaces, with 6% of all sales being donated to the World Land Trust Charity's 'Keepers of the Wild' campaign.

With a contemporary style, Kate has created beautiful paintings of our planet's inspiring destinations to evoke dreams of freedom in a sustainable way, reminding us that nothing exists in isolation.

[www.katehickmott.art](http://www.katehickmott.art)

Red Door Alchemist Gallery  
58 Cinque Ports St. TN31 7AN  
FREE ENTRY