



Rye Wurlitzer Academy
Rye College
The Grove
Rye
East Sussex
TN31 7NQ

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1161821

CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR PERIOD 1ST SEPTEMBER 2022 to 31ST AUGUST 2023

Our year started with a very successful and enjoyable Rye Proms Night, with Sally-Ann Hart M.P. as our distinguished guest, who enjoyed herself so much that she returned for our Christmas Concert as well and is full of admiration for the aims, objectives and results we have with the RWA, a credit to all the team.

Funding has been a little harder to find and achieve but we are always pleased to receive regular support from the Sussex Community Foundation and The Rye Fund.

We are still not seeing the same numbers coming through the door for our events as we did pre Covid-19, something we have in common with many venues, but we endeavour to create an enjoyable evening and give good value for money. It is lovely to see our senior students not only playing at some of the events but taking an active part in helping. Since we started in 2009, we have created a family within the RWA and it is pleasing to hear from some of original students in how they are progressing through life. We are also pleased to have parental support from our more recent students, who also bring along family and friends.

During the earlier part of the year we were advised by the Friends of Rye Wurlitzer (FORW) that they were calling it a day. I founded FORW in 1990 and ran it until resigning in 2016 to focus more on RWA. The time warp of Covid-19 meant that their management committee could not foresee numbers returning for their Sunday afternoon concerts throughout the year, their numbers had already been on the decline pre-March 2020, and also some of their team were struggling with health issue, all combining to make it time for them to stop. I could not see this project that I had seen develop and grow just stop, especially it was through FORW that I refurbished our Wurlitzer, so we tried a Sunday afternoon concert in July with Michael and John Mann, a very popular Theatre Organist. This concert had an audience and we made a profit, so we plan to arrange four Sunday concert over the coming 12 months. Time will tell, and I do not see any possibility of returning to audiences of 200 to 300 as we did in our heyday, but one can only hope for enjoyable afternoons that allow people who can't attend our Friday evenings to come along and that make a profit.

Regular and new donations were slightly thinner on the ground this year, as you will see from our financial report. We are most grateful to those who continue to support our Sponsor a Student Scheme. We are also delighted with the continued support of local Estate Agents, Rush Witt Wilson, for continuing to sponsor the hire of the hall.

We continued to enjoy good relations throughout the year with the Aquinas Trust, who run Rye College, and much appreciate the continuing support of Executive Principal Barry Blakelock and the Senior Leadership Team. It is anticipated that our "normal" recruitment presentations will continue in the new college year.

Once again, the project could not be the success it is without the continued professionalism and commitment of Principal Tutor Michael Wooldridge, who gives much of his personal time to support the whole project and who, in his professional capacity, has continued to work wonders with the students in their lessons. Our e-newsletters continued during the year, when we had sufficient news to tell our 300+ supporters to this medium.

To conclude, 2022/23 will be remembered as a year in which we survived and continued doing what we do best, bringing high quality learning to our students together with some memorable events, which help both to raise funds and spread the word.

Richard Moore - Chairman & Founder





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TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023

Review of Year to 31st August 2023

This year income has fallen a little short of expenditure, and both income and expenditure are down on the previous year. Income is down due to extra donations during 2021-22 from the Rye Mayor's Fund and Expenditure is down mainly due to a reduction in teaching days throughout the year.

Income and Expenditure

Income for the year totalled £11.8k compared to £16.1k the previous year. This represents a 26.7% decrease in income.

Income from events was £5.5k and donations were £4.3k, up by £0.7k on the previous year, although obviously there were no donations this year, from the Mayor's Fund, resulting in the £4.4k reduction in income.

Expenditure for the year totalled £12.2k compared to £17.3k in 2021/22. This decrease is due mainly to a reduction in Tuition cost. Event costs were slightly down on last year, mainly due to savings on Artists costs, although this was partially offset by an expected increase in catering costs.

Summary

With an income of £11.8k and expenditure of £12.2k, we have a £0.4k shortfall for the year, resulting in an end of year Bank Balance of £569.



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**INCOME & EXPENDITURE BALANCE SHEET
FOR YEAR ENDED
31ST AUGUST 2023**

INCOME

Donations	4,284.00
Rye Mayor's Fund Donations	0.00
Sponsor-A-Student	1,134.00
Show - Door Admissions	4,684.00
Raffle	784.00
Catering Donations	0.00
Other Donations	0.00
Gift Aid Reclaim	935.56
Sale of Instruments	0.00
Other	5.00
TOTAL INCOME:	11,826.56

EXPENDITURE

Tuition	7,750.00
Artists Fees	1,240.00
Hall Hire	250.00
Accommodation	0.00
Printing/Stationery	83.80
Organ Removals/Purchases/Storage	1,680.00
Organ Repairs	160.00
Catering	1,058.00
Music Books	0.00
Other	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	12,221.80

Opening Balance: 01/09/2022	963.90
Plus Income	11,826.56
Less Expenditure	(12,221.80)
Closing Balance: 31/08/2023	568.66

Barclays Bank Balance: 31/08/2023	568.66
Uncleared Cheques	
Funds Available: 31/08/2023	568.66