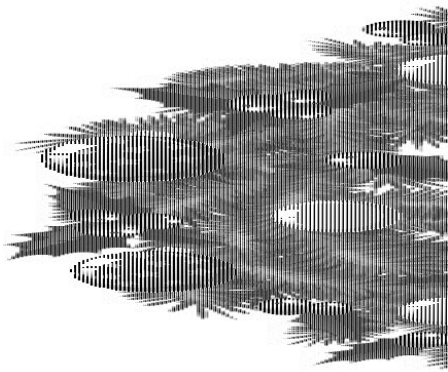


# RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND TOWN MUSEUM

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## Save the Date!



**December 14th  
2 - 6 pm  
Rye Historical Society  
and Museum  
Annual Holiday Open  
House**

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### RHS Board Holds First Strategic Planning Retreat

The RHS board met for an important strategic planning session on October 23rd and these are some of the highlights:

- A new mission statement was given preliminary agreement
  - We are starting an active search for a defined group of volunteers
  - We agreed that we need an advisory board
  - A voluntary or paid part time office manager is a necessity
  - The board needs to expand from seven to nine members
  - We agreed to create more events for members
  - Planning for the 2023 400th anniversary of Rye is well under way
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### A NOTE FROM INCOMING RHS VICE PRESIDENT, ANNE RICHTER ARNOLD

Unlike many people I have met in the community, I am pretty new to the area. I joined the RHS the first summer I moved to NH because I was intrigued about the history of my house, my neighborhood and my new hometown. In no way do I have the breadth of knowledge that others on the Board do, but that was actually one of the reasons to become involved.

Whether you have lived here one or 20 years, or your entire life, we all have something we can learn and talents we can share. We all appreciate the historic importance of our town and we can all find a way to participate in it, especially as we approach the anniversary of the 400th anniversary of the first permanent European settlement in New Hampshire at Odiorne Point in 1623.

I hope you will consider membership, if are not already a member of the Society, and also

look at ways to become involved in the preservation and sharing of the history of this wonderful town of Rye.



**St. Andrew's-By-The-Sea**  
**30 Church Road, Rye Beach**  
**1877**

In the late 1800's, Rye Beach and Little Boars Head were popular summer residences for wealthy families from New York as well as St. Louis, Chicago and other mid-western cities. Church services were important to these summer residents who united together to build this chapel.

The summer chapel, St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea, has been a welcoming part of Rye since its first services at The Farragut Hotel in 1864. The chapel, on land donated from Frank A. and Elizabeth Philbrick, opened for its first service in 1876.

The chapel is a popular stop on the Rye History Trolley Tours, held three times each season. It was placed on the National Registry of Historic places in 2002.

St. Andrew's, designed by the architectural firm of Walter T. Winslow and George H. Wetherell, is a unique example of a small rural stone chapel, embellished by wooden trim, which owes much to both the Stick Style and late Gothic Revival style. Country English parish churches inspired the design of St. Andrew's. The interior is meant to look like a boat built upside down to incorporate the decorative wooden trusses which support the heavy slate roof. The walls are constructed of stones that may have been dragged from the shore. Each wall has five protruding round stones to form a cross.

The chapel has two Tiffany windows including the magnificent rose window on the rear wall. The other Tiffany window is the fourth window in the rear of the chapel on the north side. The chapel features a window by John LaFarge, whose windows can be seen at Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston.

The first window nearest the main door on the south side is in memory of Ogden Nash, renowned poet and secretary of St. Andrew's for 25 years. The three windows

behind the altar were originally shown at the Philadelphia Exposition in 1876 and brought to St. Andrew's.

During its history, the chapel has served as the chapel for the girls' school at Stoneleigh Manor and later served the same function when that building was used as a military recovery hospital during World War II.



Preserving the building for today's use and future generations is an extraordinary and ongoing task. Cleaning and refurbishing of the chapel's interior wood ceiling, repair of several stained-glass windows, and restoration of the Lych gate have all been completed in recent years. Now St. Andrew's is embarking on the next stage of a nine-year restoration process.

The original 141-year-old slate roof is at the end of its serviceable life. Much time and investigation has been put into understanding the best way forward including considering synthetic slate. Natural slate was determined to be the best option because it was the original material of the chapel, is considered more attractive, and is more appropriate for a historic chapel. The cost to replace the slate is \$110,000.

Would you consider making a donation to this important, local cause? By making a tax-deductible donation to the St. Andrew's by-the-Sea capital appeal for a new roof, you will be directly contributing to keeping Rye's historic summer chapel protected and safe for hopefully, at least, another 141 years.

All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law.  
Please make your check to St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea  
Memo: Capital Appeal – Roof

Please send to St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea, PO Box 555, Rye Beach, NH 03871-0555

For more on St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea visit [www.standrews-by-the-sea.org](http://www.standrews-by-the-sea.org).

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**Share Your Talents and Skills with the RHS**

**Volunteers Needed For:**

- Board members and committee chairs
- Building care and maintenance
- Coordinator between RHS resources and Rye schools
- Archival work and genealogical research
- Exhibit updates and creation
- Old house documentation project
- Textile organization and display
- Computer technology and website maintenance
- Administrative work
- Public relations and membership.

If any of the items interest you, please email or phone us. We would love for you to be part of the RHS!

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## RHS Connection With Rye Museum Association in England

In 1981 Rye, NH and Rye, Sussex, England paid reciprocal visits to each other and after all these years we have become reacquainted since the mayor of Rye in 1981, Jo Kirkham, is now the director of their Rye Museum Association.

Recently Jo wrote an article on her ancient village for this newsletter and this past summer they published an article on Rye NH from Alex Herlihy in their annual historical journal. Soon the Rye town museum will create a special exhibit on Rye, England. There are many opportunities to strengthen our ties including an online student exchange. If you are interested in helping with any such effort please contact us.

## Are you on Instagram? RHS is!

Follow RHS on Social Media

Click the Icons below



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**Museum Winter Hours**  
**Most Wednesdays 3pm to 5pm**

**The Museum is open by request at**

(almost) ANY TIME!

We're here for you - please email  
[info@ryenhhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@ryenhhistoricalsociety.org)



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### *Intimate Rye History Online - Access Rye History*

Have you looked at all the new material recently posted on our web site? Under the tab: "Resources" click on **Access Rye History** and you will see over 1600's pages of a wide and diverse variety of primary source material from Rye 1850 - 1920. From diaries to letters to account books and much more you can open a window into the past and make Rye and American history come alive. Thanks to a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Fund and the work of Robin Silva from the Portsmouth Athenaeum, RHS is now able to share a rich body of the past from our extensive collection.

Visit our website

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### **Share The History of Your Home with a Historic House Plaque**

Many Rye homes, business and public buildings are adorned with these handsome plaques. The cost of a plaque is \$85.

If you would like one for your home to add to the heritage of the town, house plaque applications may be picked up at the Rye library on the coffee table (behind the RHS brochures).

Check and application may be mailed to PO Box 583, Rye, NH 03870 or left in our mailbox by the front door of the museum.



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### **RHS is a 501 (c) (3) non profit organization**

Rye Historical Society | 603-997-6742 | [info@ryenhhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@ryenhhistoricalsociety.org)

10 Olde Parish Road, Rye, NH 03870

[Click here to be added to our email list](#)