

WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

6th May 2020

For Winchelsea Beach information go to
www.winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk

For Winchelsea information go to
www.winchelsea.com

For more information about the Church go to
www.winchelseachurch.co.uk



Welcome to the Lockdown Edition

This is a bit of an experiment. It's not clear what the 'new normal' will be for Winchelsea town and church life, nor is it clear what the future holds for a monthly printed parish magazine.

Lots of us have been learning how to Zoom. You'll find a report here of a Literary Society Zoom meeting that's already taken place and news of a Second Wednesday Zoom talk on 13th May. Planning for eventual public events still goes on, as can be seen from the item on Winchelsea Arts. There is a future to look forward to

where we can gather together again and resume community life.

If you are a regular user of the town and church websites, you will probably notice that you have already read some of what's here. You may also have received the email sending this issue more than once. This is because we are using the rector's church email list, my list of people to whom I send the Forward Planner and Deborah Rodley's list of magazine subscribers. The lists overlap and we haven't yet consolidated them but will hope to do so for any future editions.

Please feel free to forward the magazine to anyone you think would like to see it and who is possibly not on one of the lists. If you think you might have a contribution that could go in a June edition, let me know, and that will encourage me to keep going with the idea.

David Page david@ryeview.net 01797 226524

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How to support the Rye Food Bank

Rye Food Bank is in great demand and would be very grateful for donations. They bank with Barclays and the details for donation by direct transfer are, 'Bexhill Food Bank, Rye Branch' 20-54-25 a/c 83501116. Cheques can be made out to 'Bexhill Food Bank (Rye Branch)' and sent to C. Emson, 24 North Salts, Rye, TN31 7NU.



News from the Rectory

This is normally an opportunity for me to try and write something that connects the seasons, the rhythms of life and the patterns of church festivals with some appropriate reflection on God's presence in its myriad

and varied ways. Perhaps a biblical verse, story or a theme that seems to chime with what is going on. As I am now posting regular reflections on the website it seemed inappropriate to do that for this digital edition of the magazine.

It was suggested that I give some idea of how the lockdown has affected my way of life and the life of the church here in Winchelsea. It is indeed strange sitting here looking out across to the church on the first evening in May and seeing a scene that looks completely ordinary. And yet we know that the normal patterns of life have been gravely disrupted and beyond this little haven many people struggle with their own health just as health workers struggle to help and sustain us. The church is closed and we have not had any public services since March 20th.



After an initial lack of clarity, the diocese indicated that it is up to the discretion of the parish priest as to how and when he or she goes into church. Whereas in some urban parishes simply going into the street breaks the regulations of social isolation, here it is quite possible for me to go to church without encountering anybody.

I felt that as the words of scripture and prayer have marked our church over the past 750 years or so it seemed important that that they continue to be heard. I have been saying morning prayer every day. Much of it I have spoken out loud, especially the words of the Psalms.

Although the words seem to echo in the deserted and quiet nave, I believe they are an important symbol of continuing prayer. In as much as one can, I have tried to bring all our congregation and indeed all our benefice before God in this way. It has been rewarding to offer prayer without the pressure of needing to rush off to a meeting or somewhere else.



I have also had the chance to get to grips with the church website. I have found that posting videos and recordings is not difficult or especially time consuming. After overcoming initial frustrations (It took me about 6 hours to upload an Easter Eucharist), it is now a relatively straightforward task. The website can be found at www.winchelseachurch.co.uk but we are currently working on a new benefice website. Visits to the site have increased and if you have not done so, do have a look and let me have any comments.

The way in which lockdown has affected clergy varies hugely depending on their circumstances. For the bishops and archdeacons there has been a lot to think about. For those in big city parishes there is also a demanding role supporting parishioners and managing community projects, such as foodbanks. It has been much easier for me as our community has strong underlying support networks.

I have been emailing parishioners, particularly regular church goers frequently and trying to find ways of

sustaining spiritual reflection and nourishment through the website. If you would like to be included on this list and have been omitted so far, do email me at revdjonathan@btinternet.com

There are still some diocesan and school governor meetings taking place online. I am finding time to work on redesigning the website, which I hope can be established later this year. We have had two Zoom PCC Standing Committee Meeting and we will need to consider the financial impact of lockdown for our budget this year.

It still remains to be seen how we can release ourselves from this lockdown but I am hopeful that we will be able to open the church for prayer soon, while continuing to practise sensible social distancing. In the meantime I continue to pray for our church and community.

Church Finance

As you can imagine we are struggling to maintain church income. Our annual budget for 2020 is about £91,000. This does not relate to the fabric or work on the structure of our church, which is generously supported by the Friends. For the quarter ending in June, last year's income was just over £7,000, it was nearly £11,000 for the 3rd quarter, dropping to £7600 for the last quarter.

Although we have retained some regular giving by standing order you can see that we are facing a large deficit. If you normally give regularly I would ask you to consider continuing to make donations. This can be done by cheque in favour of Winchelsea PCC (it can be posted to the Treasurer or dropped off to the Rectory) or by BACS (Bank Details - PCC Winchelsea 30-90-28 Ac No 01964020, with a reference) or through www.justgiving.com/fundraising/winchelseapec

At present it is not adding the Gift Aid credit but that is in hand and should be operating properly soon. You should note that there is a voluntary contribution to the administration of the site but you do need to opt out of it.



Keeping the grass cut

We have already received £2,000 for the grass cutting of the churchyard for which the church is very grateful but we are still £2,000 down on last year's appeal. The churchyard is very much a central and public space so anything that we receive benefits the whole community and is very helpful in defraying the cost to the PCC. You can donate to this directly by cheque or by BACS as above. A gift-aid form can be supplied if necessary. Contact Pamela Jeffreys 01797 222904 or the Rector 01979 226254

Jonathan Meyer, Rector of Winchelsea and Icklesham

Second Wednesday Society

The Second Wednesday Society, like other Winchelsea societies, has also had to suspend its "Second Wednesday Lectures Series".

This year's program, put together by the societies program secretary, Hilary Roome, has so far been very successful; starting with "Make a house from a tree" by Rob Mortimer and Hilary Roome in January 2020, a talk on the "Charles Palmer Vineyard" followed by wine tasting with Charles Palmer and family in February and "Darwin and Medicine, a personal encounter" presented by myself in March. The feedback after the individual

lectures was enthusiastic. The Society enjoyed an increasing audience and new members.

With the outbreak of COVID-19 and the implementation of the lockdown this came to a sudden stop. Like other Winchelsea interests groups the Second Wednesday Society will roll forward any subscriptions paid for cancelled lectures to cover next year's subscription.

However, exactly when they will resume in their usual format in the New Hall will resume, is currently difficult to predict and awaits further notice on our Winchelsea webpage - www.winchelsea.com/winchelsea-second-wednesday-society-2020/ and on local notice boards.

It has been suggested by Kim Zanes, our treasurer, to hold online meetings using Zoom to bridge the time until we will be able to resume our lectures in the usual format in the New Hall. We are aware that not everyone has a computer or is willing to use the computer in this way. We also expect initial connection and IT hiccups until such online meetings will run smoothly. We apologize. Nevertheless, we decided to do our best and give it a try.



Our scheduled April speaker Imogen Corrigan has agreed to give the first online talk this month and Hilary Roome will host the Zoom sessions. See further down for details of how this will work.

We would be interested in feedback from our members on how to improve or modify the “Online Second Wednesday Lecture Series” during the duration of the lockdown. We would also be interested in potential online presenters in particular local presenters, so please let us know if you will join the online lectures and if you would be interested in presenting one. Please email us - 2ndWed@winchelsea.com - or call us directly. We appreciate the interest and support of the local community and we are looking forward to your comments.

Stay safe and well
Monica Bessler Mason,
Chair of the Second Wednesday Society



Second Wednesday Zoom talk on 13th May

Imogen Corrigan
‘Women of the First Millennium’

Members will be sent a link with a pass code and anyone else in Winchelsea interested in joining the meeting should get in touch with Hilary Roome by email by Tuesday 12th May.
roome12hilary@gmail.com

If familiar with Zoom, people must join the meeting (i.e. be in their seats) by 2.15pm. Any zoom virgins should practice using Zoom before the day, either with a friend or family member. They should become familiar with controlling video, audio, volume settings. Better, too, that they then join the meeting at 2pm just to check with Hilary that all is in order. Once set up they can go and do something else for a few minutes.



New Hall projects continue

While the Hall is largely not in use pending the relaxation of rules on social gatherings, the management committee are continuing with the two major maintenance tasks set for this year - the replacement of the main windows and the external decoration.

The joinery for the windows is pictured here in the Hall, being primed before installation, and the whole exterior decoration is progressing. The side facing Rectory Road is now looking really smart with the joinery and gable sparkling in new paint.

To allow extra contingency for the period of under-use, the management committee have postponed the works to renew the tarmac and improve the surface drainage at the front of the Hall. We propose to re-schedule these works for next year with an improved grant.



Winchelsea's Not-Open Gardens

Gardens in Winchelsea were scheduled to open for the National Garden Scheme on Saturday 25th April. They included *Giles Point* (pictured) which was due to open for the first time.

You will find a collection of pictures of the gardens at www.winchelsea.com/winchelseas-spring-gardens/

All round the country gardens open for the NGS to raise money for charity. In 2019, nationally, almost £3 million was raised. Visitors to Winchelsea's April and June openings last year contributed £9,500 to that total.

Most of the charities the scheme supports are nursing charities and, because gardens aren't opening, they will be short of funds. There's information alongside the online pictures on how to donate to these charities.

Teas would have been provided by the Friends of the Conquest Hospital and they are fundraising at the moment for the Conquest Hospital Staff Wellbeing Fund. A link to this appeal also appears with the online garden pictures.

A group of Winchelsea Beach gardens were due to open for St Michael's Hospice on 13th June. The opening has

been cancelled but garden photos will appear on the Hospice website in due course.



Long distance reading for Lit Soc

On 1st May an unusual meeting of the Literary Society was held with a modern technological twist. Thanks to Hilary and Rob a meeting was organized on Zoom.

An added bonus to this was that as well as fifteen local members we were joined by others from further afield. Ann Rachlin logged on, followed by her daughter Jan in Cannes, Robin Whitehead in Dumfries, Jane Darcy from Ealing and Hilary's daughter Ellie and her boyfriend Jay from Brighton. We were also joined by new member Mark Russell. All brought favourite readings and we were able to chat and discuss them.

It was a very jolly evening and we hope to repeat it in three weeks' time. If you didn't manage to join us this time do try to log on in three weeks. Hilary will email you with details. As Hilary and Jonathan's very funny readings were enjoyed by all we have decided to make the theme for next time Favourite Humorous Readings which will hopefully lift our spirits in the current situation. *Lorna Challand* lit soc@winchelsea.com



Town Sign restored

The Millennium Town Sign went back up just before social distancing became the rule. It's been refurbished and re-gilded and now glints brightly in the spring sunshine. It was originally thought that work would need doing on the fixings that hold the shield but after inspection it was found that the whole structure of the sign is sound and not in need of restoration.

The cost of the work was £5,340. The sign is looked after by the Millennium Artefacts Society who were able to add to their available funds £1,000 from Icklesham Parish Council, £3,000 from the Sussex Community Foundation (Little Cheyne Court Wind Farm) and £100 from Winchelsea Guy Fawkes Society.

Running in parallel with the refurbishment was a project to display John Haddock's working model of the sign and his designs. Ann had generously agreed to lend this material to the Museum. Everything is on hold at the moment but the hope is that the model will go on show when the Museum opens again.



Winchelsea Museum remains closed

We would normally have opened on 1st May but due to the government guidelines, all museums are closed for the time being. As soon as we get the all clear I will let everyone know, but I do not think we will be open this season, I think it will take a while for people to venture out to museums and galleries again and we will have to up our game with advertising once we are able.

Jo Turner, Museum Curator

New Bishops appointed

At the end of April two new bishops for the diocese of Chichester were named. The Revd Ruth Bushyager, (top right in the picture below) will serve as Bishop of Horsham and The Revd William Hazlewood, (top left) will be the next Bishop of Lewes. They will be suffragan bishops under the overall authority of the diocesan bishop, the Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner (centre).

Ruth Bushyager was ordained priest in 2006 and after serving in the Southwell & Nottingham and Oxford dioceses became Area Missioner for the Kensington area in the Diocese of London in 2010. She has served as the Vicar of St Paul's, Dorking in the diocese of Guildford since 2014 and now also serves as Area Dean

of Dorking. Ruth is married to Ron, a psychotherapist, and they have two young daughters.



Will Hazlewood has been a priest since 2002. He served his curacy in a parish in the centre of Bristol before moving to Buckinghamshire to the parish of Iver Heath on the outskirts of Slough. He moved to the Diocese of Exeter in 2011 to be Incumbent of Dartmouth and Dittisham, a market town and village in the South Hams in the diocese of Exeter. He became Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral in 2017. His wife Sophie grew up in Sussex and is a Project Manager. They have two young children.

Fellowship Lunches

All the team who put together the lunches are sorry we are unable to continue for the foreseeable future. We are all missing it and look forward to a time when it is safe to resume them.

All the cooks have been keeping up their culinary skills and continue to produce interesting meals but only for very small numbers and slightly hampered by the apparent shortage of flour. We hope and pray that all our people who usually attend the lunches are managing ok during the lock down and managing to keep safe and well. *Mary Parker*



Winchelsea Arts makes plans

It's good to have plans for the future even if we don't yet know when concerts and community gatherings will resume. Winchelsea Arts is now preparing for its sixth season. These are some of the delights we hope to be able to offer in 2020-21.

Several concerts involve return visits of popular performers. Pegasus Choir propose an uplifting and varied programme of music written by American composers and inspired by American themes. They are also booked to come with Ellis Brass for a Christmas Concert.

Pianist Fiachra Garvey returns, this time with mezzo-soprano Rachel Kelly, and Marcio da Silva will be back, conducting rather than singing this time, with the Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra. New to Winchelsea Arts are the Magnard Ensemble (pictured) with a programme including works by Rachmaninov, Mozart, and Oliver Knussen.

In the new year, the Tara Minton Quintet present their new album *Please Do Not Ignore The Mermaid* - an impressionist dive into mermaid myth and legend with a strong environmental undercurrent. And finally, a string quartet from the Junior Department of the Royal College of Music are booked to come - part of Winchelsea Arts' commitment to support young musicians

Clearly, the Jazz concert this month that would have completed the fifth season can't now go ahead.

Anna Wiedemann, who was scheduled to come over from Munich and perform for us in March, won the Winchelsea Arts' prize as part of the New Stars International Competition. Here is a link to one of Anna's prize-winning audition videos, featuring her performance of the first movement of Johannes Brahms' Violin Sonata No. 3 in D minor.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mH9jvu5DcNc&feature=youtu.be>

You can join the Arts mailing list by going to www.winchelsea-arts.org.uk



Winchelsea Guy Fawkes Society

It will come as no surprise to you that all our fund-raising events have been temporarily suspended. Some of you have already paid your subscriptions for this year. Our proposal is to roll these over to cover next year's subscriptions. We hope, once the lockdown is lifted, we can gather together with other Winchelsea groups and celebrate our return to normal. We'll keep you posted. Meanwhile keep well and stay safe.

The WGFS Committee



Icklesham Parish Council

In the current situation the Parish Council are functioning in a limited way. Most of our staff resources are tied up with assisting those members of the community who are self-isolating and unable to shop or collect their prescriptions or need other assistance such as someone to talk to over the telephone because they are on their own.

Our officers are being ably supported by a number of volunteers from the community assisting with all of the above. We are also operating in conjunction with Rye Mutual Aid Group, who provide assistance to residents in the Winchelsea and Rye Harbour Wards. If you need assistance contact the Clerk or her Deputy who will arrange for appropriate assistance.

A limited amount of normal council business is being transacted where possible. Emergency legislation allows the Council to forgo the Annual Meeting this year, in which case everything will remain in place from last year's meeting. Council is in the process of deciding whether or not to hold an online meeting or to wait until next year's annual meeting.

The District Council is beginning to re-instate some aspects of the Planning process. Pink notices will start to appear again, and some site visits will take place. It will be some time before the planning system gets back to normality, so we must be patient.

The Parish Planning Committee has held its first online meeting and will continue to meet that way as required. Notices of meetings and agendas will appear on the website. If anyone wishes to comment on planning applications, would they send them to the Clerk or Deputy Clerk by the morning of the meeting.

Finally, for those of you who like me receive unwanted emails of dubious origin, you can now report them to the UK's National Cyber Security Centre by forwarding them to its suspicious email Reporting Service using the email address *report@phishing.gov.uk*. You will receive an acknowledgement from *noreply@phishing.gov.uk*. Every report received will be acted upon but you will not be told of the outcome.

Your Councillors are here to represent you and welcome your views on any matter. Please do talk to them or send your reviews/requests to the Parish Clerk at *ickleshampc@hotmail.co.uk* or write to PO Box 395, Hastings. TN34 9JU

Cllr Peter Turner

Sussex Police - Hastings and Rother Prevention

Inspector Jonathan Hartley writes

My first observation, and one that I believe is shared with so many both locally and nationally is how impressive it is to see the community spirit and how people are coming together to help one another. Whilst this has affected so many people, it certainly feels as though there is a real 'togetherness', especially with some of the charity and community groups that have been set up to help those in need.

To support these, I have been delighted to be able to sponsor applications for financial assistance from our Police Property Fund and other the last couple of days, I have been able to guarantee over £2600 to support the amazing work that is taking place in your communities.

Our teams continue with the '4 E's' approach: Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce. The preferred approach is to use the first three options however, to reassure you, we have also been dealing with clear breaches with enforcement.

Examples of these include two males stopped for speeding through Icklesham having driven from Folkstone, day trippers from London to Camber Sands and three males in a van from Kent in Northiam who were unable to account for what there were doing there.



All were either summonsed to court or issued with fixed penalty notices for breaching the Covid-19 regulations. Whilst we have seen a fall in some aspects of crime, we are conscious that the restrictions imposed on all are affecting other areas, especially case of domestic violence and I ask that if you hear of any incidents in your communities, you continue to report these so we can safeguard those at risk.

I am also conscious that poor standards of driving by some is more obvious with less road users. We are conducting speed enforcement and working with our colleagues in our road policing team but I do recognise this as an increased problem at this time.

Any crime, anti- social behaviour or concerns need to be reported the correct way, on 101. However, please also remember that the email account for Rother is *rother@sussex.pnn.police.uk* and the local PCSO's for

your specific area can be found at www.police.uk and they are being deployed into our communities.

*Inspector Jonathan Hartley CH662
Hastings & Rother Prevention | Battle | Sussex Police*



New Mayor takes office

The mayor making has taken place each Easter Monday since time out of mind and traditionally it has taken place in the Upper Court Hall. The plan was that, from 2020, the bulk of the ceremony should be transferred to Winchelsea Church so that as many people as wanted to attend could do so. Then came coronavirus and things turned out differently.

Nonetheless, David Page was able to take the oath as Mayor of Winchelsea for the coming year, and as Speaker of the Cinque Ports for the remaining weeks of Winchelsea's tenure until that office passes to Rye in late May. David Merrifield becomes Deputy Mayor.

Two new Honorary Freemen were named: Neil Clephane-Cameron, the Town Chamberlain, in recognition of the service he has given over the past twenty-five years; and Cllr Peter Turner, Chair of Icklesham Parish Council who has done so much over a long period to help the Corporation carry out its responsibilities.

Four new Freemen will join the Corporation this year: Stephen King, Rosemarie Roberts, Jo Turner and Deborah Upton. They will take their place alongside the town jurats: Tony Moore, Mike Melvin, John Spencer, John Rodley, Robert Holland, David Merrifield, Carol Scoines, Berni Scott and Peter Cosstick.

www.winchelsea.com/corporation/



Winchelsea Anniversaries

Two hundred years ago the jurats appointed by the Mayor of Winchelsea at the annual mayoring ceremony were still ex-officio Justices of the Peace for the town and its liberty. The Liberty of Winchelsea was quite a considerable triangular area which, with the town at its apex, stretched from the Kent boundary to the parish of Pett.

Thus it had a seashore of between six and seven miles on which smuggling took place with frequent determination and usually with success.

However, on 4th March 1820 George Stace, one of those magistrates, heard charges against no fewer than five smugglers during what must have been a drawn out and tiring session. Accused in the first of these cases was Joseph Honeysett, a labourer of Brookland in Kent.

Evidence was given by Seaman John Johnson that Honeysett had been arrested 'between the hours of five and six o'clock this morning on or near a certain farm called Camber Farm having thrown two tubs of spiritous liquor from his shoulders'. Johnson was a member of the Coast Blockade; naval personnel, in this case from HMS Severn, serving ashore under the command of Midshipman John Jones and stationed at The Watch House. The Watch House is still there at Rye Harbour (pictured).

Johnson's evidence continued: 'The same liquors were intended to be run as this informant believes without payment of duty'. There can't have been much doubt about that! Indeed there wasn't, for when challenged by the magistrate to 'make answer and make good his defence' Honeysett could 'show no cause why he should not be found guilty of the offence' and that was the verdict. The fine was twenty five pounds, a considerable sum in those days.

The other four were also all convicted on the evidence of seamen from Midshipman Jones's party and received the same punishment. The other smugglers were William Hyde, also of Brookland, who 'attempted to escape but was seized', James Holdstock, a third Brookland man, Stephen Filmer, a labourer from Rye, and Samuel Barber, from Ivychurch in Kent whose occupation is also given as labourer.

Apart from the fine each is also recorded as having to give a written undertaking 'that he will be liable to pay £200 should he, within a period of three years, again be convicted of offending against any law in force relative to the law of customs'.

Any working man would have had to serve a long prison sentence should that have happened because not even a successful smuggler would have been likely to be able to raise such a large sum. Indeed, although it is not clear from the records whether they were re-offenders, eight years later smugglers were serving sentences of considerable length in Winchelsea's prison, then in the Lower Court Hall. *Malcolm Pratt*



Independent Rescue Boat

A lot has happened since the last month's update, and all of us here at Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat hope that everyone in Winchelsea is keeping safe and staying well. At the time of writing, the Coronavirus pandemic is affecting everyone so we just need to share updates about the impact of this on our activities, services and events.

First of all, despite the logistical difficulties of providing a rescue service during a lockdown, our committee and volunteers want to reassure our local communities that the team remains rescue-ready, whilst also acting in compliance with necessary restrictions on activities and distancing. In a statement, Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat's Chair, Fiona Johnson, shared how we are trying to do this:

“It is with heavy hearts that, in accordance with government guidelines to limit the spread of the Coronavirus, we have been obliged to cancel our regular Sunday training session at the Boathouse. Although we are not permitted to meet as a group at present, our well-trained crew and base team will still be on call 24/7 to respond to any emergency that it is deemed appropriate to attend.”

As such, throughout April a minimal, core set of our volunteers have been checking and maintaining our

vehicles and equipment, attending the boathouse separately or in pairs and acting in compliance with distancing and hygiene recommendations.

Secondly, the lockdown situation has also had a dramatic impact on our community fundraising and activities. All of April's events, including our charity's AGM were postponed until further notice. For May, please be aware that Barbara's Charity Shed is currently closed and, much as we appreciate donated items, we cannot receive any donated goods until restrictions are lifted.

The Open Day scheduled for 24th May has been postponed until further notice. We remain hopeful that this can be rescheduled for September, to combine with planned activities for our 50th anniversary.

Finally, Fiona would like to reassure everyone that "although, as an organisation, we may not have a physical presence within the community during this current pandemic, there are always things going on behind the scenes both to raise our profile and to keep the pennies rolling in."

Everyone here at Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat extends their very best wishes to the Winchelsea community and hope that you stay safe and stay well.

If you wish, you can maintain contact with us through our website at <https://plirb.com> or our social media: Twitter @PLIRBRescue and Facebook @PettLevelRescueBoat and as ever, please do take care of yourselves.

Corporation Annual Report

If the Mayoring ceremony had taken place as planned, the following annual report would have been presented. It first covers how the Corporation has met its three purposes and then turns briefly to finance.

The first purpose of the Corporation is the maintenance of the Court Hall and the other properties

in its charge. In the last year, thanks to the support of the Friends of the Ancient Monuments, the fitting of plaques to the last of the Gates and the Court Hall was completed.

The New Gate was cleared of vegetation and damaging tree growth, its appearance being much enhanced as a result. Thanks to the support of the Millennium Artefacts Society, the Town sign has been completely refurbished and refitted. Work has also commenced to obtain the permissions for necessary and significant work on the Court Hall.



The Corporation is very grateful to the societies mentioned above and to their many supporters in the Town for raising the funds which have made it possible to undertake these projects, which are intended as a benefit to residents and visitors. The primary responsibility for the care and maintenance of the Lookout has passed to Icklesham Parish Council.

A second 5-year maintenance plan to prioritise and guide future fund raising activities and capital projects has also been produced. The Court Hall itself was used for non-Corporation events on 223 occasions in the last year. This has included making available a regular Post Office facility and a venue for Parish Council meetings. So it has represented a real community asset.

The second purpose of the Corporation is to enable Winchelsea to fulfil its statutory role as an Ancient Town of the Cinque Ports, which means providing a Mayor and a body of Jurats to meet this task. In fulfilling this role, over the past year the Mayor was invited to a total of 98 Confederation specific events and Winchelsea was represented at 67 of them.



In the last year, this responsibility also included Speakership of the Cinque Ports and each of the Confederation Towns was visited at least once. In so doing, their charities have also been supported to the general benefit of those in need in parts of East Sussex and Kent.

The third purpose of the Corporation is the provision of a Museum and we are indebted to those who manage the Museum and to all the volunteers from across the Town and beyond. They enabled the Museum to be kept open throughout the summer months, provide a warm welcome to visitors, in addition to its being a local tourist office.

Sadly, overall visitor numbers were down by about 400 on 2018 and there is no identifiable reason for this. We have continued to work closely with Bexhill, as our mentor Museum, while business has also been done with the V&A and the National Maritime Museum.

Of course, none of these activities would be possible without money. The annual accounts are available on *winchelsea.com*. It is not possible to draw an exact year on year comparison this year, as the Corporation has aligned its financial reporting year with the calendar year, so the 2019 reporting period was only 10 months.

The essential fact is that the Corporation had little over £1,500 less in its coffers at the end than it did at the start of the reporting period. The reason for this, essentially, is that money expended in year on regalia and plaques was provided in the previous financial year. The accounts are healthy and all expenditure has been committed to the purposes already described.

www.winchelsea.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2019-Corporation-Annual-Report-Accounts.pdf

With no revenue raising powers, we are dependent upon voluntary income and we are hugely grateful to all those who have contributed in so many ways. This includes all those mentioned above, but extends to those who look after the cleaning of the Court Hall and those who maintain the gardens, as well as our local Councillors. The Corporation thanks you all.

John Rodley, Mayor 2018-20



Photo by Deborah Beverley

Winchelsea Lockdown information

Here's an outline of the information that's given more fully on www.winchelsea.com

Icklesham Parish Council contacts

If you are self-isolating and need help, or if you can offer help, contact Anna Evett 07714 169901 or Jocelyn Cannings 07483 127514

Rye Mutual Aid

Coordinators for Winchelsea and Winchelsea Beach are Simon, Carol, Paul and Luciano. They are available on 01797 360748 and 360749

Winchelsea Farm Kitchen 01797 226287 are able to deliver groceries.

The New Inn 01797 226252 are producing meals to take away and can also deliver

The Lodge at Winchelsea 01797 226211 Is running an emergency shop and will deliver to the elderly. They also sell home-cooked frozen meals. Shop open 9am to 10pm.

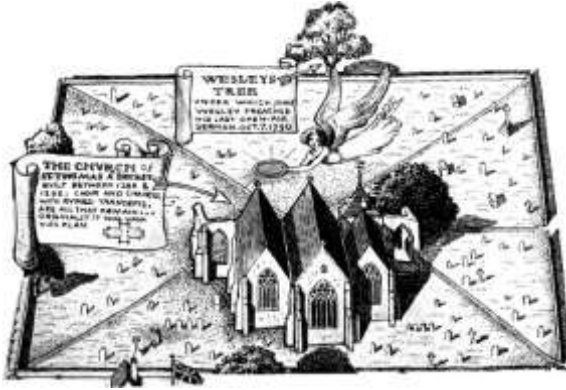
Jempson's Coronavirus Home Delivery Plan for over-70s and those isolating. Phone 01797 226 044 and select option 4. Leave the following details on the answer machine:
a. Name, b. Address, c. phone number.

Jempson's Help desk will then call back for the order.

Johnson's Fruiterers 01797 222133

Greengrocer formerly in Rye High St and now based at Rye Harbour will deliver to Winchelsea. Phone in an order by Monday evening for delivery on Tuesday or Wednesday.





Rector of Winchelsea and Icklesham

The Revd Jonathan Meyer
The Rectory, St Thomas Street, Winchelsea TN36 4EB
01797 226254 revdjonathan@btinternet.com
The Rector's day off is Monday

Churchwardens

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Burrin House, North St TN36 4HX
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Celia King
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01797 227858 sake.king@hotmail.com

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