

WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

3rd June 2020



Thanks, everyone who sent comments on the first electronic version last month. Web and email links are now live and clickable (I hope) which last month they mostly weren't.

Please feel free to forward the magazine to neighbours and friends you think might want to see it - and if someone has forwarded it to you and you want to get future issues, please send me an email and I'll add you to the regular mailing list.

In May we produced a printed digest on two sides of A4 and delivered it to subscribers who don't have email or whose email address we don't yet have. The same is happening this month.

Most of us have never noticed this small stained glass picture of Noah's Ark and the rainbow. It sits at the very top of the Nativity window at the East end of St Thomas'.

David Page david@ryeview.net 01797 226524



One of Winchelsea's 'thank you' windows. It was commissioned from Richard Plumb by Anne Haddock in Castle Street in tribute to the community support given by Nathan and Danny in the shop, our posties, the bin men, the care workers, the NHS and the local community - and hopefully to raise a smile!



School aims for 15th June

Subject to further guidance nearer the day, St Thomas' Primary School plans to start taking children into Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 classes on Monday 15th June.

In a letter to parents and carers the head teacher explains that this later start comes from a desire to be sure that track and trace is working effectively, and follows the advice of the Independent SAGE report that 'delaying a school reopening by two weeks (to 15th June) approximately halves the risk that a child will be infected...'

Most schools, including St Thomas' have remained open throughout lockdown for vulnerable children and the children of key workers. Teachers have been uploading work and activities to the school website to help with home schooling and this will continue.

Since March, families with children at the school have all been contacted in some way. Children's work has been posted and commented on by their teacher on the class Padlet and teachers have had email communication or have been telephoning families.



Plant Sale on Saturday 6th June

There'll be a plant sale on Saturday 6th June starting at 10.30. It'll be at 'Evens', the home of James and Judith Payne, next door to Wesley's Chapel. Money raised will go to church funds - as it would have done if, as originally planned, the plants had been on sale at Church Market.

Please bring your own bag or box for your purchases. Social distancing rules will be in operation so there may be a queue. You can ring Judith on 01797 224861 to ask questions or reserve plants. Here's the list

Vegetables - herbs Basil, Cherry tomatoes

Grasses Ophiopogon and Imperata Red Baron

Perennials Iris, Potentilla recta, Heuchera, Lychnis, Helleborus argutifolius, Persicaria Echium, Dahlia Karma Choc and Blanc y Verde, Salvia Amistad, Salvia Black and Blue, Pulsitilla, Gaura, Anthemis

Shrubs Teucrium, Parrotia, Lavender, Clerodendron bungei

Plus several varieties of scented leaf pelargoniums, and lemon scented verbena.



Pentecost reflections from the Rectory

I write this at the end of the driest and sunniest May on record. Sunday 31st May was the day of Pentecost. By the time you read this we will be in what the church calls ordinary time, although there is not very much that is ordinary about it this year. We still do not know when we will be able to open the doors of our churches and a fully celebrated service with hymns and a psalm is probably some way off.

However Pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit is poured out among us. Life continues and we are very lucky here to be able to get out and about and to see and talk to people without breaking the rules of social distancing. I have just attended a virtual diocesan Synod meeting. There were 95 present and it operated extremely smoothly. Amongst the financial business we were able to offer prayer together and Bishop Martin reminded us that even though we cannot meet as congregations, we are together in the spirit.

As the reading for Pentecost reminds us, “the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body”, in Christ. We are fortunate to be part of such a supportive community.

Although Pentecost is sometimes thought of as the birthday of the church, as if our congregations are the only repository of the Holy Spirit, I believe we can see examples of the work of God's presence in a myriad of ways within our communities, whether directly linked to church or not.



Many of us had hoped that by the time of our patronal festival, which falls on 5th July this year we may have been able to worship in the normal way; that seems extremely unlikely.

Our church is dedicated to St Thomas the Martyr; Thomas Becket, murdered in Canterbury Cathedral 850 years ago. He was martyred on 29th December and for obvious reasons we normally celebrate our dedication to coincide with the translation of his remains to their present resting place in Canterbury Cathedral. This took place on 7th July, 1220; so that too is a significant anniversary; 800 years.

I am delighted that the diocese have asked that our church and benefice organise an online service, which will be available to the whole diocese through their website. We very much hope to be able to include music by the Pegasus choir, which would have sung mass for us, as well as recorded intercessions, a responsory psalm, and readings.

I very much hope that this will be something that can incorporate the whole community and involve the Corporation as we would normally do for such service.



Let us remember that the Spirit of God moves in strange ways to encourage us and bind us together. Come Holy Spirit rest upon us, inspire and breathe life into us and our communities.

Jonathan Meyer, Rector

Please note that there are regular services and posts on our benefice website www.winchelseachurch.co.uk

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 third quarter, dropping to £7,600 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 PCC Winchelsea' (it can be posted to the Treasurer or dropped off to the Rectory) or by BACS to 'PCC Winchelsea' 30-90-28 a/c 01964020, with a reference or through *justgiving*. The *justgiving* link is www.justgiving.com/fundraising/winchelseapcc

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.



Grass Cutting Appeal

We have already received £2,600 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 Jefferies, 01797 222904 or the Rector, 01797 226254



From Winchelsea, Victoria

A couple of weeks back we received this message from Cllr Rose Hodge, Mayor of Surf Coast Shire in Australia which includes our sister town of Winchelsea, Victoria.

“At this time I am hoping this email finds you and your community well. This Covid-19 has been extremely trying. In Australia we have had 102 deaths which in terms of world-wide deaths very, very low. In our area of Surf Coast Shire we have only nine positive cases and to my knowledge all recovered . We locked down very early and I was able to give weekly video updates. Hoping you, your family and community are coping and doing well in these strange pandemic times.”

There's more about our sister town here

www.visitgreatoceanroad.org.au/towns-and-villages/winchelsea/

www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/About-us/About-the-Shire/Shire-snapshot



Speakership passes to Rye

Winchelsea's term as holder of the Speakership of the Cinque Ports came to an end on 21st May. The new Speaker is Cllr Mike Boyd, the Mayor of Rye, seen here being proclaimed by the Rye town crier.

This was not exactly as planned. In the normal course of things Rye would have elected a new mayor and she would have taken on the Speakership, but this hasn't yet been possible.

There would also have been a meeting of the Cinque Ports' mayors, deputies and town clerks to celebrate the handover. This wasn't possible either, so the Speaker's badge remains in Winchelsea's custody until better times. Naturally, civic events are totally in abeyance as town councils focus their attention on the current crisis.

Winchelsea Corporation has now had two Zoom meetings. Ancient traditions fell by the wayside as Jurats and new Freemen took their oaths of office online.

Photo: Anthony Kimber, Rye News



Methodist Chapel

We are so sad that we have had to cancel many of our plans for the Chapel. However, we hope to have our own annual Newsletter available shortly for all who are interested, and especially to our 'Friends'.

We are hopeful that we may be able to celebrate our 235th Chapel anniversary on Sunday 19th July. At 2.30pm we sing hymns under the 'Wesley Tree' and then adjourn to the chapel for our service of celebration. We will have to wait and see if this is possible and please check nearer the time - website www.whmc.btck.co.uk

We all miss the joy and fellowship of worship in all of our churches, and hope that it will not be too long before we can return to some of the normalities of our lives. In the meantime we do remember each other in prayer and hope that you are able to stay safe and well. Our Christian greetings to you all from the folk at Wesley's Chapel.

Barry Turnwell, Publicity Officer



Gardens

Winchelsea's gardens were due to open on the weekend of 20th June - for the National Garden Scheme on Saturday and for the Friends of the Hospital at Rye on Sunday. Some NGS gardens will open this month with online ticketing and timed entry but clearly this wouldn't work for a group of several gardens like ours.

In April we managed to post pictures on the town website and will hope to do the same again at the end of June.

A group of Winchelsea Beach gardens were due to open for St Michael's Hospice on 13th June. Garden photos will be posted on the Hospice website instead.

www.ngs.org.uk

www.stmichaelshospice.com/about/news





No Summer Fete this year

The New Hall Management Committee has thought long and hard about holding the Summer Fete this August. Originally it seemed like a distinct and welcome possibility but the committee has come to the sad conclusion that there are too many extra costs and practical obstacles to making it work.

Over the last month the exterior decoration of the New Hall has proceeded apace. As soon as the glass can be dispatched, the new windows will be completed and installed.

newhall@winchelsea.com



Winchelsea Anniversaries 25 years ago

Winchelsea seldom sees or hears anything of the peer who bears the town's name. In 1995, just one occasion in many years, the Earl of Winchilsea came to visit. Despite the variation in spelling, his ancestors have been associated with the town since medieval times when, as the Finch family, they were leading residents.

The first earl was ennobled by King Charles I in recognition of services rendered to the crown in connection with the Confederation of the Cinque Ports. Since then a number of holders of the title have made their mark on the history of the country. One was an Augustan poet; another accepted the surrender of Dover Castle on behalf of King Charles II, later being appointed Lord Warden; a third financed the founding by Thomas Lord of Lord's and the MCC; a fourth fought a duel with the Duke of Wellington; a fifth drove a wagonette in the first London to Brighton car run in 1896.

The title holder in 1995 was Liberal Democrat spokesman in the House of Lords on the police service, on Britain's licensed taxi drivers and on the Saharawan refugees some two hundred thousand of whom had been forced from their country when in 1975 it was invaded by both Morocco and Mauretania.

All three of these interests were reflected in the Winchelsea visit which took place during a long-distance journey, 'Cab Around Britain', in aid of the Saharawan Aid Trust. On that journey Lord Winchelsea was accompanied by a police officer and driven in a gaudily painted taxi which drew up in the High Street outside the Court Hall.

In the circumstances he had felt it inappropriate to drive through the town whose name he bears without stopping, a feeling warmly endorsed by the members of the corporation who gave him a warm reception at the Court Hall where refreshments were served and collecting boxes enthusiastically rattled. He left with donations to his cause including, in a neat historical touch, one from the Mayor and Mayoress, Henry and Sue Dormer, equivalent to the sum due to the corporation each year from properties in the town and known as the Queen's Dues.

Sad to record, his lordship died only four years later. Perhaps in conclusion we should salute Christopher Winchelsea as a man ahead of his time for his obituary notices record that, long before such matters became of today's prominent concern, he made his maiden speech in the House of Lords in support of a bill which sought to outlaw the sale of drinks in non-returnable bottles and cans.

Malcolm Pratt



Court records online

Malcolm Pratt's most recent Winchelsea project has been to work on the town's Court Records from 1765 to 1866. An amazing quantity of material survives, some of it found in the offices of a London solicitor in 1952. This had been sent to the capital in connection with an eighteenth century court case over who was and was not entitled to be a freeman - an important point when members of the Corporation were responsible for electing two MPs.

Malcolm admits that probably no one but him will read all the entries. The fascinating part for the rest of us is Malcolm's introduction which explains how the town was governed and how its courts worked. He also gives short biographies of some of the key players and these are well worth a read.

The introduction and records are online here:

https://www.sussexrecordsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/Digital_editions/SRS-Vol-Add4-rev-2.pdf



Zoom meetings for Literary Society

Lit Soc Members Evening
on Friday 12th June

'Summer'

7:10 for 7:30

Lit Soc talk on Friday 19th June
7:10 for 7:30

Dr Jane Darcy on

***Amusing Victorians and the
Rise of British Comedy Writing***

Contact Hilary Roome by email
roome12hilary@gmail.com if you would like to join in
these Zoom meetings.



Winchelsea Arts

Peter Hatch writes: During this unprecedented time of so much uncertainty, I thought that you would enjoy hearing a performance by Charlie Watkins and his band, *That's A Peculiar*, who were scheduled to give a concert in Winchelsea in May.

Here is a link to the performance of one of their original pieces entitled *Scrambled Legs*.

<https://soundcloud.com/chaarliewatkins/scrambled-legs>

If you enjoy what you hear and would like more, their album is available for purchase at

<https://chaarliewatkins.bandcamp.com>

All plans for our 2020-21 season are now on hold, and we will be in touch to let you know of the arrangements for current subscribers once the date of our next concert is confirmed.

www.winchelsea-arts.org.uk



Second Wednesday Society on Zoom

on 10th June

Michael Howard, National Trust Ranger, on

The Devil Birds of Winchelsea

originally scheduled for May

Be in your seats by 2:20 for 2:30 start

Contact Hilary Roome by email
roome12hilary@gmail.com if you would like to join in
this Zoom meeting.



Icklesham Parish Council

Winchelsea Traffic Calming

It will disappoint some residents of Winchelsea that the Parish Council has reluctantly decided to defer stage 1 of the project, the design stage. The decision will be reviewed in the autumn.

The reasons behind this decision are related to the current pandemic. The Council are concerned that the design stage will be affected by the current situation and as a result is likely to be more of a desk-based scheme which may entail subsequent adjustments once full on-site surveys can be properly carried out. The cost of the design stage is already funded but does represent a significant cost in relation to our annual expenditure.

It makes sense to delay this stage to complete it in one go, rather than risk additional costs for making adjustments. The loan funding has not been drawn down but will remain available for the remainder of the municipal year.

The more important issue is the funding of stage 2, implementing the works. The Parish Council were relying on raising funds for this stage via grants and match funding. The availability of grants is currently

unclear. It was part of the overall finance plan to seek match funding from East Sussex Highways.

This funding may also be under threat given the pressure that County Council finances are currently under. The final component would have been funds raised through the precept to cover any shortfall from grants and match funding. If financing stage 2 is delayed for any length of time, then we may incur additional costs in revisiting stage 1 to ensure it still complies with current regulations and procedures as well as increased costs for carrying out the work.

It does not make sense to fund the costs of stage 1 via a long-term loan if the prospects of carrying out stage 2 are in doubt.

The final consideration was the Parish Council's annual precept. Presently, there are no constraints on the amount we can raise our precept by. However, by the Autumn we should have a clear idea if the Government are minded to impose constraints on Parish Council precepts.

We are also aware that our council taxpayers are going through difficult times right now and some are facing uncertainty about their future income. We therefore need to think carefully about the financial burden we impose through Council Tax.

These considerations brought us to the conclusion that the Autumn budget process was the time when we should review the ability of the Parish Council to deliver on this project in the short term.

Guestling Surgery

Dr Chris Chinnery is pleased to say that an agreement, in principle, has been reached with a GP from Harold Road surgery. They will take over Guestling surgery when the present occupant leaves. They already have patients in the area, currently running clinics from Pett and Fairlight village halls. They are willing and able to take on more patients and also can dispense medication to them.

Rye Mutual Aid Group

The Rye Mutual Aid Group have set up a sewing group to make masks for their volunteers and for local residents, to avoid purchasing masks that are needed for front line workers. If you can help full details are on the web at this link:

<https://www.ryemutualaid.org/sewing-and-distribution-club> or speak to one of the volunteers whose details have been published.



Internet Security

Last month I mentioned the UK's National Cyber Security Centre's suspicious Email Reporting Service. Since its inception in April it has succeeded in removing over 300 websites, so do keep reporting them.

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

Peter Turner



Bishop asks MPs to lobby for re-opening of church buildings

The Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner, has written an Open Letter to all Members of Parliament whose constituencies are in his Diocese asking them to "lobby for an urgent review of the continued closure of our church buildings to individuals who seek solace in such places".

Dr Warner adds: "At a time when tensions run high, I believe that there is a deep thirst for access to churches and cathedrals as places of prayer for people of committed faith, or for anyone who is in search of space in which to find peace."

The Bishop has been in receipt of an increasing number of emails and communications reflecting many people's frustration about the perceived low priority status of the re-opening places of worship. He explains that it is an open letter "in order to indicate to those who have made comments to me on this matter that I have shared their concerns with you."

"We urgently need places and experience that build hope, trust and endurance," writes the Bishop.

The capacity of the Christian Church to engender those virtues through prayer and stillness in its buildings should not be underestimated," he adds.

Parishes across the Diocese of Chichester have been working flat out to respond to the needs of many communities since the lock down began when churches were closed. Offering support to the relatives of those who are sick and those who have died, as well as the many projects supporting the young, elderly and vulnerable across East and West Sussex, the Diocese has largely adapted to different ways of working. Worship has of course been offered online in a variety of ways.

Online response and coordination have been a top priority across parishes, local communities and with church schools supporting the families of front line workers.

But Dr Warner is now requesting that the churches should be allowed to re-open with safety a top priority. He explains that much work has already been done to enable churches to be opened in a phased way with every attention given to working with the Government and relevant authorities to ensure that buildings, when open, are as safe as possible.

Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat

It's June already and as far as the weather goes, it certainly feels like summer. However, as we all know it's a very different kind of summer and all our volunteers here at Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat hope that our friends in the Winchelsea Parish are keeping well.

As shared last month, we've remained rescue-ready throughout the lockdown period. This proved vital when our rescue service was tasked to launch on May 16th as part of a multi-agency incident. There are more details about this on our website blog.



And when we've not been on the water? Despite being restricted as a group during the lockdown, our volunteers have been individually supporting other community causes over the last three months:

Three crew / committee members joined local Mutual Aid groups across Pett, Fairlight, Winchelsea and Winchelsea Beach, delivering medication and shopping to local residents.

One crew volunteer is now part of Team Rubicon UK's Op-Re:Act project, as well as Volunteer Riders UK. For this, he's been deployed as part of a bike-based relay transporting medical essentials (such as scrubs) across the UK.

Three members have also volunteered with the NHS Volunteer Responders.

In all, like many charities out there, we've tried to continue to support our local communities in whatever individual and collective-at-a-distance ways we can.

From a committee perspective, all our future plans remain provisional - with our postponed AGM and Open Day still waiting for new dates. Until further official guidance is received about gatherings, 2020's 50th Anniversary celebrations are also stalled. As a rescue charity, our priority is safety, so this celebration remains firmly in the 'watch this space' category and won't happen until it's safe to do so.

Speaking of safety, just a quick last word. As restrictions on exercising and being outdoors started lifting last month, we've seen activity on the beaches quickly increasing. Since then, our volunteers have been summoned to the boathouse on several, separate occasions relating to concerns about water-users.



Kayakers and inflatables are particularly in danger lately as although the sun is out, offshore winds are often high. Thankfully, so far, all's been well but it's a reminder that although we're here to help, prevention is the biggest life-saver.

So, although eagerness to be 'out there' is entirely understandable, please remember to take a moment to check tide times, weather and particularly wind information before visiting the beach or exercising on the water. This small action can be vital for staying safe.

So, please take care and stay beach aware, and stay in touch through our website at <https://plirb.com/> or our social media: Twitter @PLIRBRescue and Facebook @PettLevelRescueBoat. And stay well too!



New Inn Curry and Chili Nights

Winchelsea New Inn has now held three speciality nights offering curry or chili menus. The most recent were curry nights held on 3rd and 4th June.

You pre-order by phone and choose a delivery time. Full information is posted on the blog at www.winchelsea.com beforehand.

More chili nights are promised for the week starting 18th June, and the regular daily menu continues to be available.

Rye Food Bank still needs our support

Rye Food Bank continues to be much in demand and are very grateful for our donations.

Details for donation by direct transfer are, 'Bexhill Food Bank, Rye Branch' Barclay's 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.

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/bexhill/>



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.



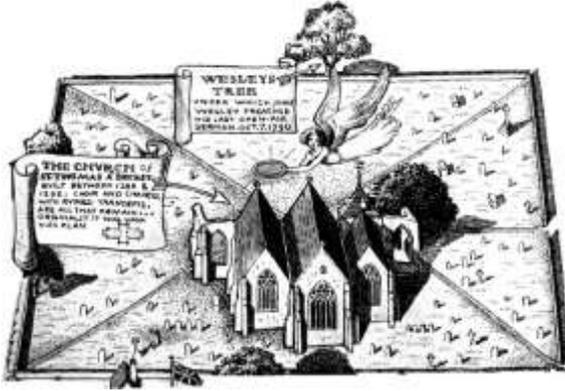
Face masks available

Protective facemasks made in Winchelsea now available at Winchelsea Farm Kitchen. Triple layer cotton and linen masks have all been pre-washed at 60 degrees. Wash and hang outside to dry. Lots of designs available. Donations please - split between St. Thomas' Church and the Rye Food Bank. *Shirley Meyer*

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



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

Charlotte Beecroft
Burrin House, North St TN36 4HX
01797 223159 ccmburrin@gmail.com

Celia King
Stargazer, Morlais Place TN36 4LG
01797 227858 sake.king@hotmail.com

PCC Secretary

Angela Hill
Friars Halt, Friars Road TN36 4ED
01797 226325 angelam.hill@btinternet.com

Parish Treasurer

Pamela Jefferies
Wee Five, Sea Road TN36 4LH
01797 222904 pamela.jefferies@sky.com

Gift Aid David Jefferies

Electoral Roll Officer

James Payne
Evens, Rectory Lane TN36 4EY
01797 224861 evenswinchelsea@gmail.com

Organist

David Birchenough
07840 595338 daviddaorganist@icloud.com

St Thomas' Choir

Marion Lovell

7 Oast House Field, Icklesham TN36 4BP

01424 815247 marion@abingworth.plus.com

St Thomas' Primary School

Headteacher Carol Gardiner

Friars Road TN36 4ED

01797 226479

office@st-thomas-winchelsea.e-sussex.sch.uk

St Richard's Chapel Warden

Mary Parker

Solstice, Sea Road TN36 4LH

01797 229798 maryalan.parker@btinternet.com

St Richard's Secretary

Pamela Jefferies 01797 222904

St Richard's Treasurer

David Jefferies 01797 222904

Friends of Winchelsea Church

Chairman Ben Chishick

Tower Cottage, Barrack Square TN36 4EA

01797 226653 towercottage@btinternet.com

Treasurer Stephen King

Stargazer, Morlais Place TN36 4LG

01797 227858 stephenking408@btinternet.com

Parish Magazine

Editor David Page

Rye View, The Strand TN36 4JY

01797 226524 david@ryeview.net

