

WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

2nd August 2020



Living with risk is something all of us have always done. Assessing the risk of coming together after lockdown is our next challenge. This month, Garden Society take steps towards meeting up again. Churches started gathering from early July and the New Hall is gradually re-opening. Precautions continue.

We are all missing the quality of Winchelsea life that came from the many activities that brought us together in the same space. Though there are increasing signs of caution from the government, let's hope that some indoor gatherings can resume before too long.

While we wait, you'll have noticed that our new magazine format allows colour photos, so if you have any pictures that you've taken around Winchelsea or in your garden during lockdown, email them to me and I'll aim to include some.

David Page david@ryeview.net 01797 226524



Detectorist damage

Winchelsea Cricket Club haven't been active on the pitch during lockdown but people with metal detectors have. In July, just as coronavirus rules were being relaxed to allow village cricket to start up again, five holes appeared on the cricket square, with others nearby. Damage had also been done earlier in the year.

The story found its way into the national press. Jo Turner, Cricket Club secretary and our Museum curator was quoted in the *Daily Telegraph*. "We know this time that they are definitely metal detectorists as there are perfectly dug out holes of the ground, about a foot deep."



"The way they are putting the soil and the turf back in afterwards has to be the work of detectorists. Winchelsea is a very sensitive area for archaeological reasons and its history goes back to Medieval times. They could have found something of significance, but we will never know."

The land belongs to the National Trust and the entire site is listed as a scheduled ancient monument which means activities such as metal detecting are illegal.

Detectorist damage has been reported elsewhere in Sussex recently: at Firle Beacon, surrounding World War II pillboxes near Bexhill and at Cuckmere Haven.



Winchelsea Anniversaries

25 Years Ago

It was in 1995 that Winchelsea Cricket Club was invited, in recognition of its two hundredth anniversary, to play a match at Lord's.

The club's opponents on that auspicious occasion were The Cross Arrows, all very experienced cricketers, many of them having been on the Middlesex staff or played either first class or minor counties cricket. Their annual series of fixtures in September each year is played not,

of course, on the main square but on the ground at the Nursery End.

Many travelled from Winchelsea to Lord's on 30th September that year, most arriving early in anticipation of the occasion. The cricketers went immediately to prepare for the match while the other visitors were very pleased to be treated to a guided tour of the Lord's pavilion during which particular note was taken of the portrait in the Long Room of the Ninth Earl of Winchelsea who in 1787 financially supported Thomas Lord's building of the ground.

By the time the visitors arrived from the tour the match had started. The Cross Arrows were batting and showing their class. In fact both openers scored centuries. In his memorable account of the day's events the late Richard Merricks, commented on the Winchelsea bowling, that 'anything remotely off length was summarily despatched to, and often over, the short leg-side boundary'.



Declaration came some time after lunch at the formidable total of 279 for two. In Winchelsea's reply John Crisford scored 45 and Frank Cooke 'using the long handle in his own inimitable style', 35 including twenty in one over. David Wheeler with 19 was the only other batsman to reach double figures and Winchelsea's all-out total was 126.

Concluding his account Richard wrote: 'It had been a wonderful and memorable day. The Winchelsea players

felt, with some justification, that they had not done themselves justice on the field but they were up against an eleven of high-class cricketers and the Arrows were suitably impressed with the visitors' positive approach and cheerful attitude'.

Players, other than those already mentioned, were: David Glazebrook, David Symonds, Alan Crouch, Stephen Turner, Charlie Reid, Richard Flood, Stephen Crisford (Captain) and Graham Tree. Twelfth man was Jim Bilsby. John Dunk umpired and Phil Stone was Winchelsea's scorer.

Malcolm Pratt



Church opening and service times

St Thomas' is now open every day again, usually between 9am and 6pm.

Sunday services started again on 12th July with a weekly Eucharist at 11am at St Thomas' and at 9.30am at Icklesham. Services at Winchelsea Beach have not yet resumed but this is under review.

winchelseachurch.co.uk



Sheila Holland

With great sadness we record the death on 23rd July of Sheila Holland, friend to many in Winchelsea and creator with Robert of a wonderful garden at *South Mariteau*.

Liz Clarke-Saul

Winchelsea gathered round in 2019 to support fundraising for a research project into the rare bone cancer which led to Liz's death in July. Our sympathies go to Liz's husband, Jack, and to her parents-in-law, Linda and John Clarke.

Judy Harris

A patron of *Winchelsea Arts*, Judy died on 31st July after a short illness. Living latterly at Playden, she was the organiser and generous sponsor of several concerts at St Thomas'. Judy's son, Tom, a talented young pianist, died tragically in 2015.



FOAM and Rotary

News from Stuart Raine, chair of the Friends of the Ancient Monuments and Museum of Winchelsea.

We are sorry that due to the pandemic we have been able to undertake any events since the quiz in February. The biggest loss is of course the cellar tours which bring in the bulk of our revenue and give people from all over UK and overseas a flavour of medieval Winchelsea.

Our next event would have been a talk on 10th October by Peter Mackenzie Smith on *Winchelsea and WWII*. The New Hall is closed and although it is examining opening safely, we have concluded that postponing the talk until next year may be a better option.

The other event is *Carols in the Court Hall* and I am afraid this will have to be cancelled this year not only due to the distancing problems at the Court Hall, but also the ban on singing, which may be lifted, but I suspect not for some time.

Indoor events may be difficult for some time to come, but all will be kept under review and as soon as safe we will be providing entertainment as before.

Rotary walk and cycle ride

Rye and Winchelsea Rotary Club are hoping to go ahead with a couple of outdoor events which you may be interested in.



Winchelsea Rotary walkers 2019

The walk usually undertaken in May is provisionally planned for 6th September. Team Winchelsea have won this for the last few years and 50% of the sponsorship raised has gone to FOAM. The walk will be designated as a Community Walk with some emphasis on supporting caring and medical charities. More details will be available shortly.

If this is too difficult to arrange or not supported, then we may consider Club members and partners walking alone and seeking sponsorship, as before 50% to a charity of your choice (i.e. FOAM).

The Cycle Ride is will go ahead on Sunday 27th September in partnership with Rye Wheelers as usual. Anyone who feels they wish to join the *Tour de Romney Marsh* can contact ryerotary@gmx.com Info will also be available on [facebook.com/rotaryinrye](https://www.facebook.com/rotaryinrye) or on Twitter [@ryerotary](https://twitter.com/ryerotary).



Big Butterfly Count

From the middle of July until 9th August we are all encouraged to get out and spend fifteen minutes counting up how many butterflies we see.

Butterfly Conservation organise this every year and observations can be uploaded to their website.

The site shows a map, so it's possible to see what's around in our area. Ten different species have been spotted in Winchelsea so far during this summer's count. Orange Tips fly early and have already gone.

Large Whites make the biggest number but Red Admirals run them a close second. Small Whites and Peacocks are not uncommon, and there are also Meadow Browns, Commas, Green Veined Whites, Holly Blues and Small Tortoiseshells. Newly-hatched Gatekeepers are increasing in numbers from day to day.

Small Copper butterflies and Painted Ladies have been seen in gardens at Rye Harbour and Icklesham but none so far in Winchelsea. Nobody has uploaded any sightings from Winchelsea Beach yet, but there's still time.

bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org



Garden Society looks ahead

Winchelsea Garden Society Committee met at the end of July to think about future plans.

Reluctantly they have decided not to go ahead with the Autumn Show on 12th September as there are still too many restrictions which present too great an organisational challenge.

In its place, the Society are planning a 'virtual' event in which members will be invited to send in photographs of favourite flowers, vegetables, garden views, etc. It will not be competitive but a simple celebration and sharing of what is best in our gardens in mid-September. Watch out for details of how to participate.

There is going to be a cautious resumption of Garden Socials. On Thursday 13th August, Tony and Lis Jasper have generously invited members to their garden at *The Armoury* between 5.30 and 7pm. It's a big and lovely space so people will be able to keep safe distance from each other. The Society will provide wine and soft drinks served in disposable plastic glasses.

The 'Best Front Garden' competition has resumed and the July winner is June Cockton of *Wattle Cottage*, The Strand (above).

Plans are also being made to hold the annual Winter Lecture in January. 2020 membership subscriptions

will be extended to the end of 2021. Members are urged to hold on to their 2020 Schedules for use next year - the dates will be different but all the other details will be carried forward.

garden@winchelsea.com



American theme for Lit Soc

The next Members' Evening will be on 7th August at the usual time of 7 for 7:30pm. The theme for readings and poems is American Literature. Members will be sent a Zoom invitation before the meeting.

litsoc@winchelsea.com



Icklesham Parish Council

The Clerk and Responsible Officer

The top news this month is that the Clerk, Anna Evett has submitted her resignation in order to take up a full-time role with Rother District Council. She will be sorely missed in her role as clerk, not only by the parish councillors and the parishioners, but also her colleagues in the Rother Association of Parish Clerks of which she is currently the Chair.

On behalf of the Council and the Parish I wish her well in the next phase of her working life. She will leave towards the end of August.

The Council will now have to start the process of seeking a new Clerk. Anyone interested should look out for the advertisement, when full details of the post will be available.

This will mean that there will be some disruption to the level of service the Council can deliver until a replacement is in office.

Rye Harbour Signal Mast

The Open spaces Committee discussed the estimate for the repair. The cost of taking down the mast and re-erecting it comes to £2,000 and the repairs will be in the region of £8,000. The proposed work will result in

a reduction in height of 9 feet (2.7m). A decision on the mast will be taken at the next Full Council Meeting.

Speeding

The Committee received a report on the Rother Association of Parish Councils work on speeding. The Committee recommended that the Council should seek to purchase the equipment recommended in the report, which would enable speed data to be gathered at agreed places in the Parish. Data gathered can be used to make a case to the Police for formal action to reduce speeds.

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

Cllr Peter Turner



Court Hall Post Office returns

Anthea will be back with the pop-up Post Office at Winchelsea Court Hall from Monday 3rd August. She plans to resume regular service on Mondays and Thursdays from 9.30 to 11.30am from now on, including cash withdrawals.

As you would expect, there will be rules on personal distancing and a limit on the number of people in the room at the same time, and you will need to wear a face covering.

Court Hall neighbours have been sharing the task of helping Anthea in and out of her car and the Court Hall when she visits. If you could help with this, please contact magazine@winchelsea.com and we will pass on your message to Richard Feast



Church Market

The first church market since lockdown was held in the open air on 1st August. A record £716 was raised - a very high proportion of it from the plant stall. Many thanks to everyone who contributed produce and who worked hard to make it happen.

winchelseachurch.co.uk



Activities resume at the New Hall

The Management Committee of the New Hall is pleased to announce that the hall is reopening, in a safe and gradual way. Pilates recommenced on 29th July and Tomboogie will shortly be using it for limited dance tuition and filming, both observing social distancing rules. Other activities will resume later.

All regular hirers have been apprised of their obligations to keep within government regulations and they and all other hirers must comply with a number of new COVID-related conditions of hire.

The committee has had the benefit of invaluable advice from ACRE - Action with Communities in Rural England, an umbrella group which advises on the running of village halls among other things, and their guidance has been implemented as it applies to the New Hall.

Visitors to the hall will find notices in and around the premises providing information. Much of the advice is about aspects of hire which may not be obvious to casual users, so anyone using the hall must pay particular attention to the notices and all other information.

The car park has two-metre markings for waiting to enter the hall. The kitchen is not in use and will be

locked except where specifically requested at the time of booking and arrangements can be safely made. Hand sanitiser is provided and is to be used on entry and as necessary.

There have been some improvements to the hall during the closure, including new windows and external decorating. The new windows will be fitted with catches in due course so they can be opened and thus assist with ventilation.

The committee is grateful for the interest and support it receives from the town, as evidenced at the fascinating and highly successful talk in February describing the rebirth and refurbishment of the hall after closure for six years. The aim is to continue to provide this wonderful facility for the town and to ensure that it can overcome yet another challenge in its long life.

New Hall Management Committee
www.winchelsea.com/new-hall



Piano needs a good home

Good home sought for a Challen medium-sized upright piano (from Harrods), in good condition. Free, although a donation to St Thomas' Church would be most appreciated. Located in Winchelsea.
Stewart, 01797 229893



Comet Neowise

The comet, some 64 million miles away, was photographed over the Cricket Field in the small hours of 22nd July by Andreas Garzon who was staying with Tom Ashmore and Ant Parker at *Giles Point*.

The new comet was spotted by astronomers for the first time in the Spring and is not expected back in view for another 7000 years.





Fundraising campaign for PLIRB

And here we go into August, feeling cautious but proactive and of course hopeful that our friends and supporters across the Winchelsea Parish are keeping well.

Since our last update we've remained busy. Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat crews, HM Coastguard, Lydd Search and Rescue teams, RNLI and emergency services were tasked to search for a missing person, which was stood down when the missing person was found to have returned home. We were also tasked to a swimmer in trouble off Pett Level, and were stood down when the person was brought safely to shore by a member of the public.

In both cases, we were pleased that each person was safe. As an active rescue service we have no problem with being called out, even if it does turn out the situation is already resolved. So, as the summer continues please remember that if you spot a potential problem along this coastline, do call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

As mentioned last month, we're pleased to now announce that our Weather Lottery fundraising campaign is now up and running. Anyone who would

like to take part in the lottery can sign up in support of Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat, and every £1 entry bought in support of PLIRB raises funds for us through the lottery profit. Our goal is to have 100 weekly entries by the end of 2020. Ok, it's a bit ambitious but you never know ... with a £25,000 prize each week, we're hoping our players will also benefit!

If anyone would like to find out more, please visit our dedicated page at the www.theweatherlottery.com call down to the boathouse for a leaflet (in the leaflet box outside the boathouse) and check out our Facebook page for updates on each weekly lottery draw.

If any of our Winchelsea Parish friends would like some leaflets to share at work or with friends, please let us know and one of our volunteers will drop some off.

Finally, just to share that we're now back at the boathouse on Sunday mornings, in team 'bubbles' to help maintain social distancing and safety for our volunteers, visitors and the community.

Barbara's PLIRB Charity Shed is also open when we're there but please be aware this is now for sales of existing items only. As part of the 'new normal' donated items cannot be accepted currently. There's a full post on this on our blog if you'd like more information.

Until next time, do keep up to date with us using our website at <https://plirb.com/> or our social media: Twitter @PLIRBRescue and Facebook @PettLevelRescueBoat. And stay well too!



Covid-19 Face Masks

After working hard at our sewing machines for some weeks, the team has decided to have a break and masks will no longer be made to order. There were some left following the church market and these will be at Winchelsea Farm Kitchen for a donation of £3-5. The proceeds go to Rye Food Bank and the church.

Keep your masks washed and aired, as they will last, and will not end up in landfill or the oceans, as many of the disposable ones do. Stay safe!

Best wishes, Shirley, Berni and Sandra.

Rye Food Bank

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.

Please continue to donate if you can.

www.trusselltrust.org



Winchelsea Coronavirus help

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.

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.

Not many entries in the diary yet but let's hope to see it fill out in the months to come...

Winchelsea Church and Town Diary August 2020

Saturday 1st Church Market - St Thomas' Churchyard

Sunday 2nd **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Trinity 8 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

Friday 7th Literary Society Zoom Members' Evening

Sunday 9th **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Trinity 9 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

Thursday 13th Garden Society Members' Social

Sunday 16th **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Trinity 10 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

Sunday 23rd **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Trinity 11 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

Sunday 30th **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Trinity 12 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

Monday 31st Bank Holiday

Tues 1st Sept September magazine copy deadline

Sat 5th Sept Church Market (tbc)

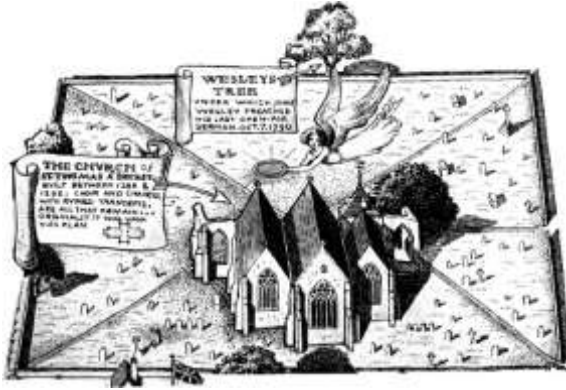
Sun 6th Sept **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Trinity 13 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**
Rotary Walk (tbc)

Mon 7th Sept St Thomas' School - First Day of School Year

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

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