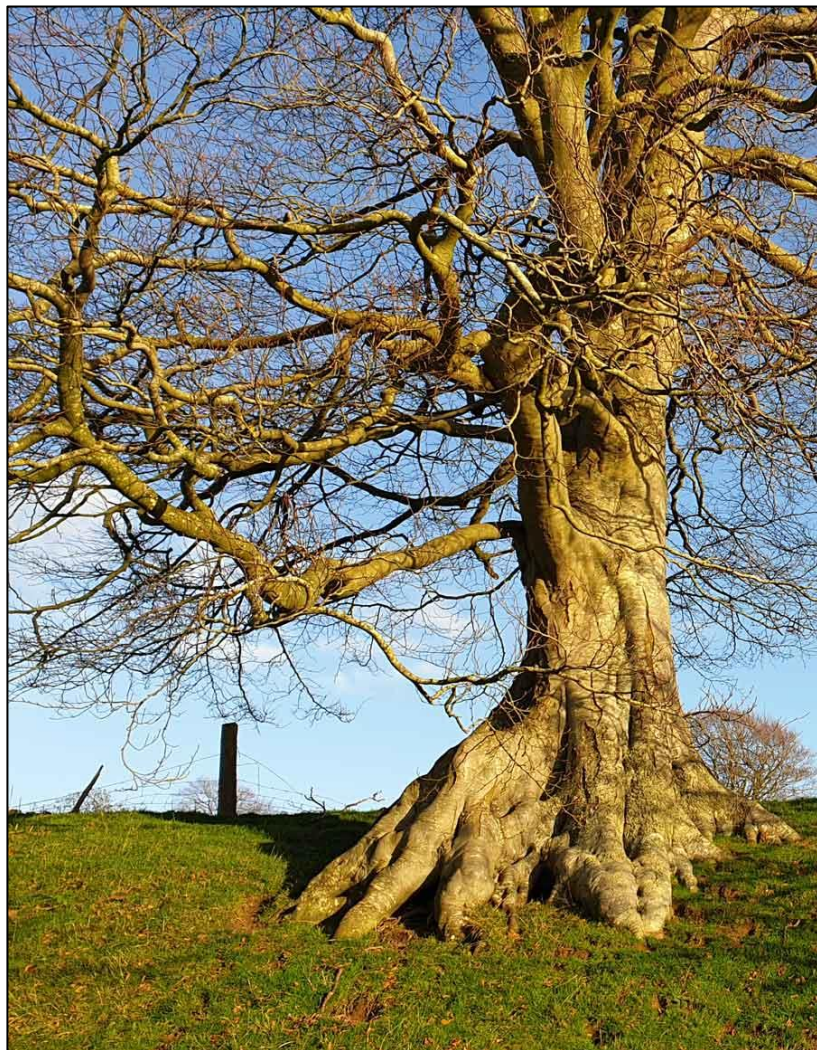


WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

2nd January 2021





Services in the Winchelsea and Icklesham Benefice

One or two people have asked me what the plans are for services in the New Year. As you know the church was criticised for not making a strong case to remain open during the first lockdown.

However the government has now been persuaded that going to church is not a leisure activity but an essential part of many people's identity and spiritual life.

Consequently services can continue at present even in Tier 4 with the usual precautions in place. It would seem a shame not to have services when we are permitted to do so. There will be a weekly Sunday Parish Eucharist at the usual times of 9.30am at Icklesham and at 11am at Winchelsea.

I should add that I think it is very important that people who do not feel comfortable for what ever reason should not feel that they have 'a duty' to attend church. If anyone who does feel they would rather not attend but would like to discuss it, they are welcome to give me a ring.

There will be no choir in Winchelsea for the immediate future. If you remember in the early part of the summer we held a number of services without music and they were reasonably successful. The situation will be monitored and subject to change.

Let us pray that the coming year may see this pandemic brought under control at least to some extent.

With every blessing 2021
Jonathan

01797 226254 revdjonathan@btinternet.com

winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk







Christmas Windows

Congratulations to the organising team and to the seventy-odd people who decorated a window for us all to enjoy. Thank you to everybody who sponsored the lighting of the Church windows - they looked stunning. There are more pictures on the blog at winchelsea.com







Carols Round the Town

Sadly we were only able to get part of the way around the town this year. Our first carol singing session on Sunday 13th December, suitably distanced and accompanied by only light rain for a change, was warmly welcomed by all the residents we visited.

We enjoyed it very much, especially with so many decorated windows to admire. Donations for *Shelter*, the National Campaign for the Homeless, amounted to £215 on the night plus a pledge for £20.

Unfortunately the second session, scheduled for the 21st, had to be cancelled due to the stricter Covid regulations which would have made our small group of 6 illegal. Apologies to those people who were looking forward to our visit and who had contacted me. We're really sorry we couldn't come and sing to you.

At the end of such a difficult year many charities like *Shelter* are suffering reduced income at a time when support is most needed. Donations can still be made up to and including Sunday 10th January, to Carol Scoines, 5 Spring Steps, telephone 01797 222772. You can also go direct to the *Shelter* giving page [by clicking here](#).

Thank you for all the donations to date and for any you may still wish to make, and a Happier New Year to all.

Carol Scoines.



Into the New Year with Lit Soc

All events at 7pm for 7:30pm start. All on Zoom until such time as we are told it is safe to meet in the Lower Court Hall. In addition to the talks programme, there are plans for Members' Evenings on Zoom on first Fridays through to April.

Friday 15th January

In search of Caesar's Footprints:

The legacy of the Roman Conquest of Gaul

by Bijan Omrani.

Bijan is a Classicist and historian. He is the author of several books, most recently "Caesar's Footprints: Journeys to Roman Gaul" (Head of Zeus, 2017)

Bijan may be Zooming in from the USA.

19th February

Betjeman and Architectural Writing John Vigar

19th March

The Forgotten Spy Dr Nick Barratt

16th April

Monsieur Ka Vesna Goldsworthy

21st May

Living with Poems Jon Cook

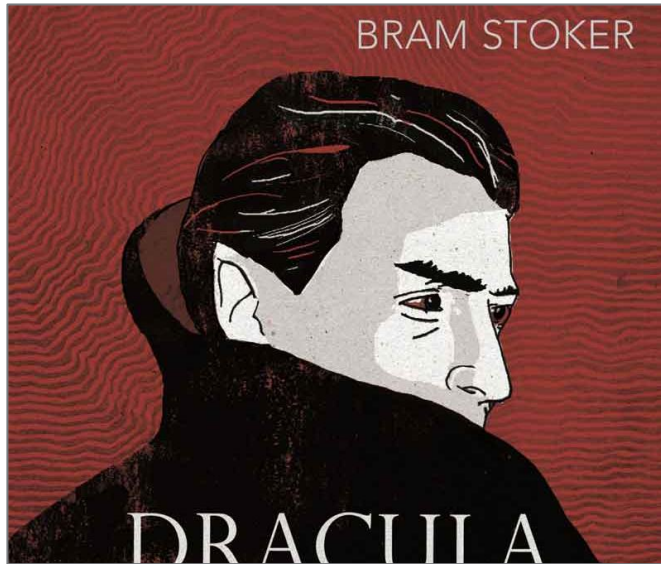
18th June

In Time Douglas Reid Skinner

17th September

Vlad the Impaler and the Legend of Dracula

Patricia Erskine-Hill



15th October

How do we help writers? Alastair Niven

19th November

**The Good, the Bad and the Saucy: 300 years of
British Prime Ministers since 1721** Sir Anthony Seldon

10th December

With Great Pleasure... Tony and Sue Moore

WinLitSoc@gmail.com

[Click here for the Literary Society blog](#)
which carries tributes to Alan McKinna.



Alan reading to Literary Society - 11th December

Alan McKinna FRCS

Alan died suddenly on 12th December at the age of 88. He had a highly distinguished career as a surgeon at the Royal Marsden Hospital specialising in the treatment of breast cancer.

Retiring to Winchelsea and worshipping at St Thomas' he became a member of the Church Council and a leader of prayers at Sunday worship. Alan was a wholehearted participant in many aspects of town life, giving generous support to organisations and individuals.

He was Mayor in 2007-8, a trustee of ARRCC, a founder member of Literary Society and its secretary for several years. He convened the art group and could always be relied on to have something to exhibit at Garden Society shows. For several seasons he organised *Carols Round the Town* in aid of *Shelter*, a cause dear to his heart.

More recently, Alan and Mal moved from Ford Madox Ford's house in Friars Road to a flat in Kent Close and he devoted himself to caring for Mal. 'It's in the contract', he would say but, of course, it was very much more than that. A private family cremation will be followed by a celebration of Alan's life when circumstances permit.



Mayor and Mayoress 2007



Alan and Mal at the Spring Show 2014



Armed with bamboo for the 2011 Flower Festival



Second Wednesday

13th January

Embroidered with Woodbine and Eglantine: Elizabethan Textile Furnishings

Dr Gillian White formerly worked for the National Trust. Since completing her PhD she has taught extensively at Leicester University Centre for the Study of the Country House and at Oxford University Department for Continuing Education.

10th February

Great Ormond Street Hospital - past, present and future

Judy Anderson works for the famous pioneering children's hospital as their Legacy Development and Outreach Manager

These Zoom meetings are open to all during the pandemic. As ever, if you need a little help on using Zoom, please do contact Hilary Roome - it really is very easy and will just take a few minutes to set up. Zoom invitations will be sent out a day or two before the talk.

2ndWeds@gmail.com



Winchelsea Bowls Club

The club now has its own website. Here's part of the report on last year.

2020 started in hope, rather than expectation. As a club, during 2019 we had held our own in the Rother League and most other external competitions in which we were entered, winning the Bayham & Lamberhurst tournament and retaining the Fairwin Trophy.

The green had stood up very well bearing in mind the long hot dry spells and so we were looking forward to improving rather than simply maintaining what we had. And then the rain came, and then Covid-19 came, and then the sun came!

At the beginning of 2020 we had relentless rain which meant that our usually very well drained green couldn't cope and we ended up with puddles in areas where we had not seen them before. Growth in these areas was severely retarded. Just when we would have seen a growth spurt the weather changed. It became as dry as it had been wet, and it wasn't just warm, it was hot!

This happened to coincide with lockdown when nobody could go anywhere, except for Barnard Castle! I cannot remember ever having to use sprinklers in April and May. No matter how much one tries, they are no substitute for proper rain. Over all the result was that

we arrived at what would normally have been our open day with a green which was playable, but not looking at all good.

By now, of course, we were in lockdown. This did not preclude us from maintaining the green, indeed, some of us treated it as our 'Borisercise'. We made the decision that we would only open the green for practice by members, once again, writing clear and strict rules which had to be abided by in order to keep the members as safe as possible.

It was pleasing to see members taking the opportunity to enjoy a bit of relaxed sociable, but socially distanced, bowling, whilst showing total respect for the procedures which we had put in place.

The club had to make some tough decisions during the year. Knowing that we would not be receiving income from match fees, match day raffles and general fundraising it was decided that we needed to collect membership fees as normal even though there was a real possibility that members would gain no benefit from being a member during the year. Not only did all members renew, but we were also delighted to welcome a few new members. Fantastic!

Keith Sellens

winchelseabowlsclub.co.uk

hello@winchelseabowlsclub.co.uk



National Garden Scheme

Garden openers had to decide back in August on the dates for 2021 charity openings, not knowing how things would develop. In Winchelsea we have plumped for Saturday 17th April and Saturday 19th June. Fingers crossed.

Nationwide, 2019 was a record year with the gardens raising more than £4 million for the first time ever, which would have enabled record donations of £3.3 million. However, faced with gardens closed for a long period and in the knowledge that these openings produce 85% of total income, the NGS had to make a painful decision to reduce donations in order to survive. Nursing and health charities received the bulk of the funds as they always do.

In the event the NGS donated just under £2 million, made cost savings, and between June and October were able to open some larger gardens with pre-booked tickets. Sadly, as many of the Winchelsea gardens are small and timed pre-booking for a group of gardens would have been impossible to administer, we had to remain closed.

NGS Impact Report 2020



Winchelsea Anniversaries

200 years ago

It was in 1821, at the Coronation of King George IV, that the Barons of the Cinque Ports last carried out their traditional right to carry a canopy over the monarch in the Coronation procession.

On receiving the King's Writ requiring the town to nominate 'two fit and proper persons' for this duty the members of the Corporation appointed, as was standard practice in those days, Winchelsea's two MPs, Henry Brougham and Lucius Concannon.

Neither actually attended. Brougham had successfully defended Queen Caroline at the trial which George IV hoped would enable him to obtain a divorce and his presence at the Coronation was therefore unacceptable to the king; Lucius Concannon was ill and, in fact died a few months later.

Sadly the compiler of these notes has not yet been able to discover who actually did represent Winchelsea that day. Whoever they were their duty with the other Barons did not go well.

Many reasons and excuses have been suggested about how and why things went wrong. These include that the

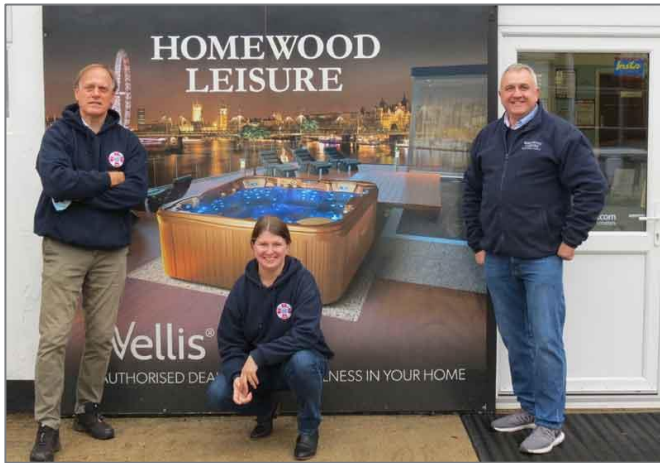
weather was too hot, that the canopy was too heavy, that the Barons had had too little practice, that they insisted on arguing precedence with others in the procession; that there was a scuffle when an attempt was made to steal the canopy's valuable fittings and that the Barons had had too much to drink beforehand!

Whatever may have been the cause, there is a delightful first-hand account of what actually happened. This reads: 'At first all seems to have gone well but on the return to Westminster Hall the elderly Barons began to tire at their task thus causing the canopy to sway from side to side. The king, feeling nervous that it would fall on his head, thought it safest to walk just in front of it.

This, however, did not suit the stout hearts if weak bodies of the barons whose duty it was to carry the canopy over the monarch so they hastened their steps thus causing the canopy to sway even more. The king became genuinely alarmed and, though of portly habit, quickened his pace and, as the canopy surged after him broke into a somewhat unseemly trot. In that manner they all arrived breathless at Westminster Hall!

As a result of this fiasco Honours at Court (the official name of this duty) were not granted for the coronations of King William IV or Queen Victoria. However, although canopies have never been carried since, the Barons of the Cinque Ports were present for all four twentieth century coronations at which other duties were found for them.

Malcolm Pratt



Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat

Welcome to 2021 and the latest update from Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat. With the continued national and international crisis, which led to our local tier 4 restrictions, our activities have naturally been reduced, so apologies for this update being a little thin!

When the latest restrictions were announced in December, our operations were scaled back to search, rescue and flooding relief emergencies only and our general activities reduced to just essential checks on the boathouse and equipment. As a result, the presence of our volunteers at the boathouse is minimal, but please be assured that we are rescue-ready to protect users of the coastline, and to respond to flood alerts throughout the current restrictions.

Before this, we'd been quite successful in selling our greetings cards and calendars online, with our volunteers delivering items. However, once non-essential retail was closed down, this fundraising stopped to help keep everyone safe.

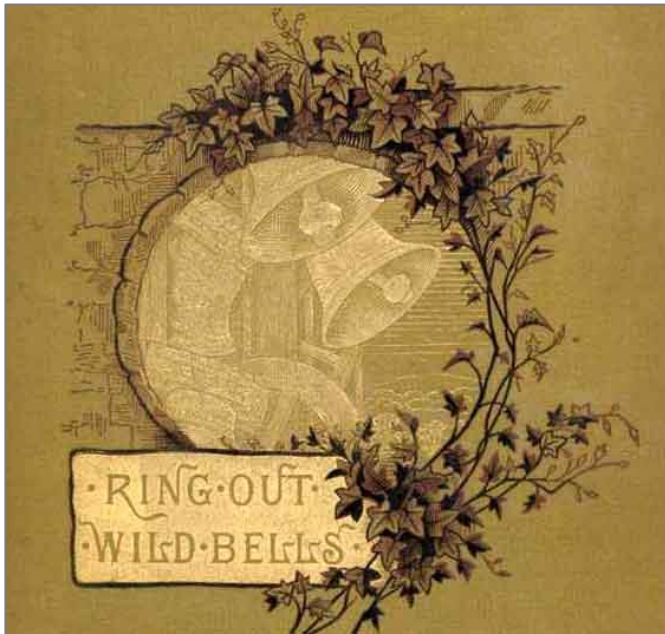
As a result, we do still have 2021 calendars for sale, so if anyone in the Winchelsea Parish would like to order some for pick up or delivery once current restrictions are lifted and it is safe to do so, please do contact us. Current pricing is £3 each or 2 for £5.

Before the current restrictions, three of our volunteers did manage to squeeze in a socially-distanced visit to Homewood Leisure of Rye because owner Stuart Homewood had a special surprise for us. After reading about our current funding situation in the Rye News, Stuart has kindly donated a £5,000 hot tub as the star prize in a special one-prize raffle.

Tickets have just been printed and although we can't be 'out there' selling them at the moment, our #stayafloat fundraiser launches this month. Tickets cost £2.50 each and are printed in books of 4. With 1000 books available, Stuart's hoping that his prize donation will actually help us raise the £10,000 needed to cover a full year's running costs, to help our rescue charity #stayafloat!

Please check our social media and blog for more information on this exciting fundraiser at <https://plirb.com> or our social media: Twitter @PLIRBRescue; Facebook @PettLevelRescueBoat and Instagram @pettlelevelindyrescueboat.

In the meantime, the volunteers here at Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat wish everyone across the Winchelsea Parish a Happy - and much healthier - New Year. Until next month, do stay safe, take care and stay beach aware.



Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light,
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold,
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Tennyson

(Thanks to Marion Lovell for this)



Rectory Lane - 27th December

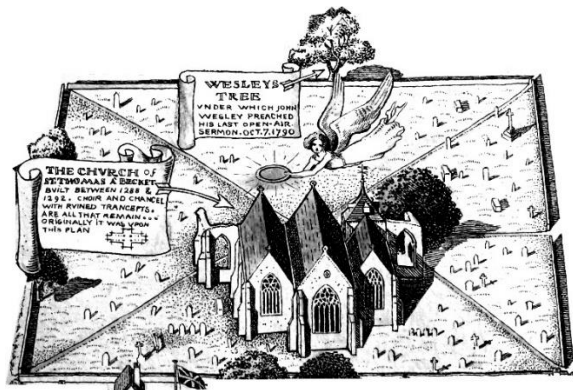
Please send copy for the February Magazine to
david@ryeview.net
on or before Sunday 31st January

For Winchelsea Beach information go to
winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk

For Winchelsea information go to
winchelsea.com

For more information about the Church go to
winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk

For weekly news from the local area go to
ryenews.org.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

Evans, 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

