

WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

1st February 2021



Millennium Beacon *Ian Rowlands*

Reflections from the Rectory

For the third time since last March there are no services taking place in the churches within our benefice. Earlier in January the PCC reluctantly decided that we should suspend services for the moment. Over Christmas there were a number of successful services and it was good to keep the church open. St Thomas' continues to be open every day for private prayer.

Unfortunately we are getting used to stopping Sunday services. This time however the situation is somewhat different. In March and November we were ordered by the government to cease communal worship, however this time communal worship is still permitted.

Consequently the responsibility fell upon me as Rector, the Churchwardens and the PCC. As with any meeting there were a number of different views expressed and certainly some people felt that we should continue services, after all we have taken every provision to make them safe by insisting on sanitising liquids, the wearing of masks and social distancing.

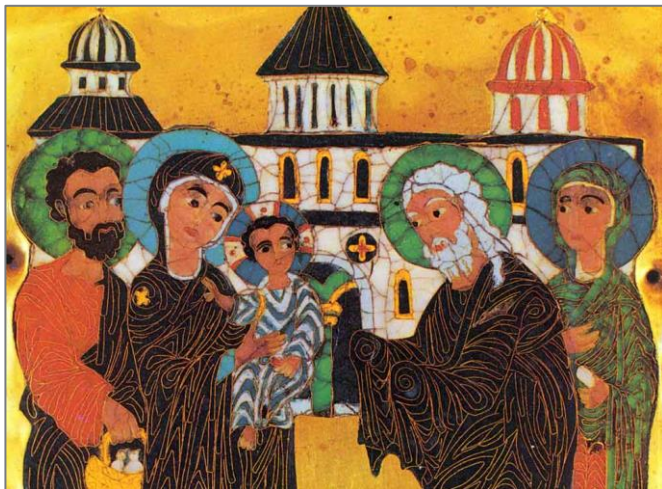
In my mind I felt it much safer to go to church than to go to the supermarket. But reading the news and listening to the pleas of doctors and health workers it seemed right to take note of the wider community; to think of the impact even one extra infection might have on others. I'm sure I'm not the only one who felt that it was easier not to have to make the decision ourselves. Whatever we thought when the churches were closed for worship in the early part of last year and during November we could blame the government. Perhaps in that simple realisation of our responsibility there is a lesson.

We are hoping to be able to hold a service on Ash Wednesday, 17th February, but of course it will depend on the situation.

For Candlemas there is an online recorded service which you can find here:

<https://youtu.be/2-uBbjbm3LA>.

Candlemas was traditionally a service of light. It was originally considered the true end of the Christmas season and decorations often remained until then.



In biblical terms Candlemas is the celebration of Christ's presentation in the Temple. The aged Simeon recognises the child as the Messiah. He and the priestess Anna had waited in the temple all their lives for this moment. They did not depend on a directive or an instruction from anyone else, they simply trusted in their faith that God's Messiah would come.

Perhaps that should be a reminder to us that we all need to take responsibility, to act with patience and above to have faith in the future.

Jonathan

Church Website

Not everyone will have visited the new Benefice Website. Do have a look and consult it for further information. I have been making two services available online and we hope to post recorded information about the windows, reflective prayers and other resources in due course.

winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk



Donations for the Magazine

The digital magazine is available free to anyone who would like to receive it and we have no plans to charge.

As well as covering production costs, the annual subscription and cover price of the printed version contributed to the funds that keep the church up and running. That revenue is obviously not now coming in.

If you value the magazine and would be willing to give a donation to the church in place of an annual subscription that would be greatly appreciated.

You can either make an electronic donation at justgiving.com/fundraising/winchelseapcc or you can put cash or a cheque in the black box at the back of 'St Thomas'. If you could mark your donation 'Parish Mag' that would be a great help to the treasurer. If you use a cheque, please make it payable to 'PCC Winchelsea'.

Once business life returns a bit more to normal we will be asking local firms who used to advertise with us whether they would like to do so again.

Thank you very much!

Icklesham Parish Council

Meetings in February

Monday 8th Planning Meeting by zoom. Contact the Deputy Clerk if you wish to join in the meeting.

This will be followed by Open Spaces.

Contact the Clerk if you wish to join the meeting.

Monday 22nd February

Planning Meeting by zoom.



Report on the January Council Meeting

There was only one candidate for the vacant Winchelsea Ward seat on the Council. Mr Ian McConnachie from Icklesham was co-opted to fill the vacancy. He will serve until the elections in 2022.

Budget

The Council has now finalized its budget for the next financial year. It results in a modest increase on last years precept to £113,775. This represents a rise of 0.26% on the current year's precept.

Speed calming

The speed calming project was one of the projects that missed out on this round of budgeting. This was partly due to the Council being informed that the cost of the design stage would increase by 23.85%. At the same time, we were advised that we can appoint our own

consultant to design a scheme. We are aware that at least one other Parish Council in Rother has taken such an approach and saved significantly on the cost of their project.

The other factors we considered were that the impact of the pandemic has created uncertainty, not only about the overall cost of the project, but also about the future availability of funding to implement the scheme.

The County Council have made it clear that any funding they have available will be directed towards schemes with a high priority and the Winchelsea project is not seen by them as a high priority scheme.

The Parish Council has not abandoned the project, but we have taken a step back, partly to consider how we can deal with the issues outlined above and partly to take the pressure of this year's budget, particularly as we know that we could not advance the project very far this year and there was a considerable risk of not spending the money in the next financial year.

That would have put us in a position where we had increased that part of the Council Tax covered by our precept, at a time when we know many residents will struggle financially as a result of the pandemic, without delivering what we promised.

The Parish Council already has a budget provision to obtain a speed recording device for use on East Sussex Highways controlled roads, which would enable us to use it in Winchelsea, Winchelsea Beach and Rye Harbour. We still must agree with Highways England about its use on the A259 through the Parish.

The device can readily be moved to different locations once we have agreed with Highways and the Police on suitable sites. We know from the Catsfield project that it can provide useful data on traffic speeds and traffic flows that the Police can use to determine when and where to use their scant resources to check speeding, to gain the maximum result.

Whilst this may have an impact on speeding, it will not alter the fact that Winchelsea is used as a rat-run.

It will enable us to take some action on speeding across most of the parish.



Winchelsea Beach Bus Passenger Shelter

The other significant project to be set back is the bus shelter for Winchelsea Beach. This was also due to costs being much greater than we had planned for. The additional costs being due to regulatory requirements that mean we have to fund changes to the kerb layout if we are to erect a shelter.

We plan to carry out preparatory work on both these projects during the coming year, with a view to including them in a future budget.

Jubilee Playground Gate

The Council received the draft deed of easement from Rother District Council to allow a gate to be installed in the Western fence of the playground. This would replace the informal access from Trojan's Plat, which we have been asked to close, and hopefully encourage more parents to park in Monks Walk to drop off and pick-up children, rather than block up Back Lane and Friars Road. The Deed has been forwarded to our Solicitor for consideration. The path that the gate would link to is on land wholly owned by the District Council, hence the need for an easement.

Rye Harbour Signal Mast

The Council agreed to the terms of a new lease of land belonging to the Environment Agency at Rye Harbour, upon which the signal mast stands. The mast is currently down for repairs and refurbishment. We hope to re-erect it early in the new financial year. The mast is an historic structure for the display of storm signal warnings for mariners, dating from before the days of wireless telegraphy.

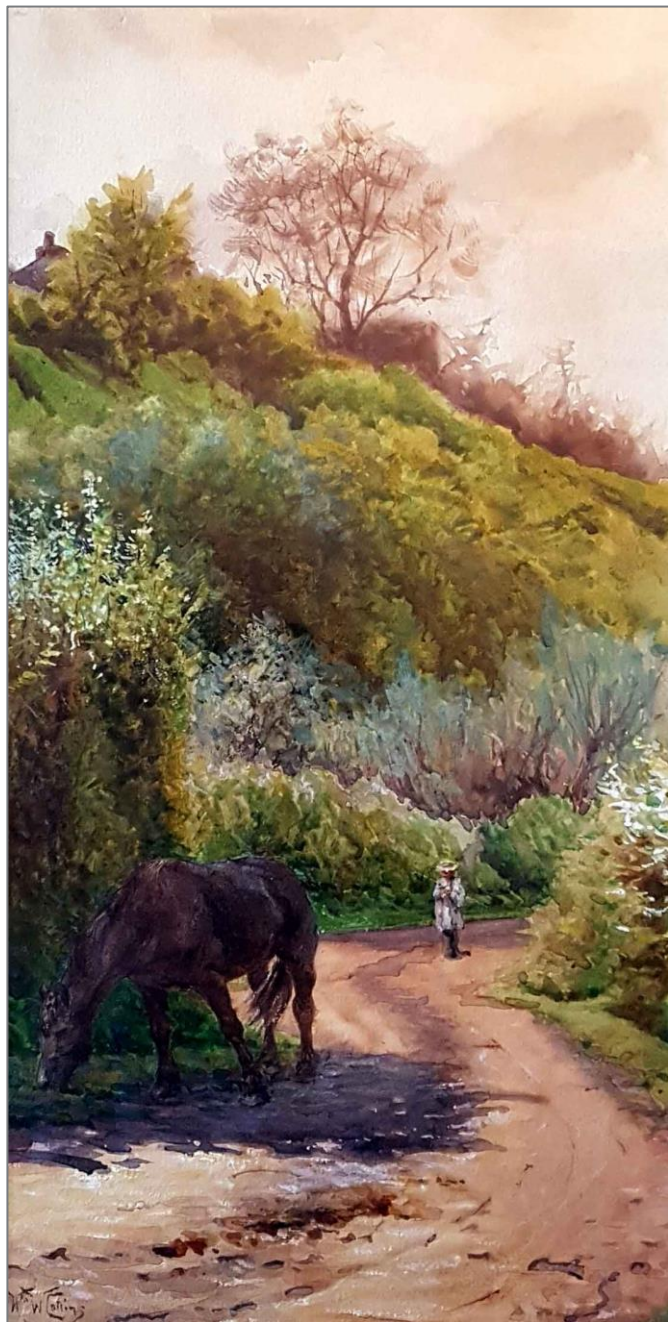
Affordable Housing Project

The hot news this month comes from Icklesham Parish Community Land Trust Ltd. They advise that their housing partner, Hastoe Housing Association has appointed a contractor to build the houses and that the contractor has taken possession of the site. Work is expected to start on site within three months.

There are a number of planning conditions to be satisfied before the work can start. When works start, it will be almost six years since the Parish Council carried out the Housing Needs Survey and over ten years since they first sought consent from Rother District Council to carry out a survey.

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



Tanyard Lane with the Pipewell Gate above - around 1900

Winchelsea Anniversaries

50 Years Ago

With the number of problems caused by large vehicles getting stuck in the Strand Gate showing no sign of reducing, the first practical steps to improve the situation were taken in 1971 when it was proposed to alter the official route of the A.259 to follow Rectory Lane, Ferry Hill and Tanyard Lane.

The great advantage of this proposal was that it would allow the junction at the top of Sandrock Hill to be re-designed so that through traffic was fed along Rectory Lane and kept away from the town and the Strand Gate.

No amount of signpost alteration or additional warnings had earlier been successful in persuading heavy lorries to turn left at that point and deviate from what appeared to be the principal route.

In the absence of any actual plans to build a by-pass this was the most sensible suggestion to date but there was still considerable local concern about the implications of the proposal.

This took tangible shape in a petition organised by Mr. J.D. Wood and signed by large numbers of residents, complaining that the proposed trunk route was more dangerous than the existing one and extremely difficult to improve as the Icklesham to Winchelsea stretch had recently been improved. Any such diversion with associated work was a waste of money in view of the fact that the only solution to Winchelsea's traffic problems was a by-pass.

Much heated debate followed with the parish council and the corporation strongly supporting the new trunk route. Eventually the Sussex Express was able to report 'Winchelsea Accepts Trunk Route Change. But fight for by-pass will continue'.

At the end of a public meeting the article reported: 'The organiser of a petition protesting against the re-routing said he would ask people who had signed to retract their objection - as long as the Town Council (sic) continued to press for a by-pass.

Said Captain Lovegrove, (a member of both the parish council and the corporation) "Make no mistake - we will continue to fight tooth and nail."

The petitioners' fears about improvements to the new route seemed justified when, two years later, the county council proposed the complete closure of Strand Hill to vehicular traffic in order to protect Strand Gate from further damage and provide a quieter environment for residents, The residents clearly did not want a quieter environment on those terms.

The proposal was greeted with outrage and a feeling that the principal motive was to allow cheaper improvements at the foot of the hill by permitting removal of the hump and thus improving safety in Tanyard Lane. The proper way to achieve that was to build a by-pass.

For the parish council, the corporation and the residents, here acting with complete accord, to lose the regular route from the town to Rye, an alternative route for emergency vehicles, and the town's dramatic principal entrance for tourists, among numerous other reasons, made the idea ludicrous.

Fortunately, after fierce protest, it was consigned to the waste paper basket where Winchelsea felt it belonged.

Malcolm Pratt



Wilma celebrates

Flowers, candles and cake to celebrate the 90th birthday of Wilma van Stratum in January. Friends left the gifts and withdrew to the regulation distance to share their greetings. Happy Birthday!



Second Wednesday

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.

Zoom meetings are open to all during the pandemic. If you need a little help on using Zoom, please contact Hilary Roome. Zoom invitations will be sent out a day or two before the talk.

2ndWeds@gmail.com



Winchelsea Archaeological Society

Everyone interested in the history of Winchelsea is welcome to join two online meetings on Saturday mornings - opening at 11.05am and starting at 11.15.

20th February

**The Winchelsea Vaulted Cellars or Undercrofts
- why are they so special?**

20th March

**Medieval ship graffiti in Winchelsea
- is the town on an old pilgrim route?**

Andrew Scott will provide the Zoom-type presentations with plenty of pictures and not more than 40 minutes long - followed by questions and discussion.

Please email andrewscottb@aol.com for details of how to access the meetings.

winchelsea.com/the-town-story/archaeology/



Literary Society

The next Sharing Evening (aka Members' Evening but open to all) will take place on Friday 5th February at 7.30pm. The theme is *Food*.

For the benefit of newcomers, who will be very welcome, readings can be anything - poetry or prose, famous, obscure or even written by you. Usually about 3-5 minutes long, but bring along a couple in case there's time. If you'd rather just listen that's fine: there's no obligation to read. Zoom invitations will be sent out the day before.

Friday 19th February at 7pm for 7.30

Betjeman and Architectural Writing **Zoom talk by John Vigar**

John is an architectural historian and commentator, with a special interest in ecclesiology - the study of churches. He is the author of books on Sussex and Kent churches and many guide-books.

WinLitSoc@gmail.com

<http://winlitsoc.blogspot.com/>



Plenty to read

Geraldine I'Anson and John Lusk have been sorting through their collection of magazines.

“We wondered if people might be interested in dipping into some of them, covering a few years. Most of them relate to memberships and subscriptions that people will already have. But for those who would welcome some alternative reading material we should be happy to provide it.”

They include the following: Country Life, The Garden, Art Quarterly (magazine of the Art Fund), The Georgian Society (bi- annual).

geraldine.ianson5@gmail.com

07889 604862



Lis Jasper

Little did we realise in August when Lis and Tony Jasper hosted the last of our Garden Society socials that most of us would never see her again. Lis died on New Year's Day. She was 88.

The August social was a happy occasion and Lis was so obviously enjoying the chance to share her fascinating and idiosyncratic garden and to chat over a glass of wine after the seclusion of Covid.

She sparkled that afternoon as she recalled growing up on a farm in rural Jutland and her love of the sea.

She had led an interesting life: a child in Nazi-occupied Denmark; au-pairing in post-war England where she met Tony; a Home Economics degree at Copenhagen University; a winter in Greenland as a catering manager; companion to Lady Norman, wife of the Governor of the Bank of England; and finally, Winchelsea and the challenge of making a new garden.

Many people will not know that the Jaspers bought *The Little Shop* in 1998 and Lis ran it for four years before it went to the Little Shop Association. The town of Winchelsea owes her a debt of gratitude.

Lis was a warm-hearted, kindly and affectionate person but also shy and modest about her own achievements. She was a loyal supporter of the National Garden Scheme for many years, helping to raise large sums of money for charity.

She will be greatly missed but the garden will live on as her monument. Whenever I walk along Castle Street, I will think of Lis on her knees weeding *The Armoury* courtyard and, as she hears the gate click open, looking up with a welcoming smile on her face.

Howard Norton



Open to the public in 2016

That iconic Rotarian, Captain Sir Tom Moore, has really set a splendid example for us all, based simply, on doing something for others in need in our local community.

If you would like to donate food items once a month to the Rye Foodbank, please give me a ring, so I can co-ordinate a socially distanced pick-up, from your front door. I would be most grateful for your support.

01797 226414

Rye Food Bank - Financial Donations

Monetary donations can most easily be made online through the Jempson Foundation and gift aid can be applied if you are a taxpayer which increases the value of your donation by 25% at no cost to you. jempson-foundation.org/rye-food-bank/

Alternatively you can donate by bank transfer to the *Bexhill Food Bank Rye Branch* at Barclays Bank, sort code 20-54-25, account number 83501116. If you make a bank transfer please do send a message to ryefoodbank@gmail.com so we know who it is from and can send a receipt, if required.

You can also donate by cheque to 'Bexhill Food Bank (Rye Branch)' posted to 24 North Salts, Rye, TN31 7NU.

There's a report on the background to this at ryenews.org.uk/news/food-bank-busiest-in-area
www.trusselltrust.org



Felix Lozano

THE THIEF

You slipped silently across the world,
Malevolently,
Maliciously,
Evil,
Unseen,
Careless of your devastating power.

Cruel,
Decimating countries,
Cities,
Villages,
Families.

You stole many months from our lives;
Careless of the heartbreak,
The homelessness,
The jobless,
The broken lives,
The suffering,
The bitter heartbreak,

All caused by a silent killer

Which crept vindictively across the nations as they were unaware.

And yet,

And yet,

There is hope.

I will not succumb.

I will not be broken by a silent enemy.

There is a small streak of optimism

Nourished by a blackbird's song,

The kindness of families and friends,

The care of the sick,

The beauty surrounding me if I but look with hopeful eyes.

I will survive.

And those I love with me.

One day our hearts will sing again,

And we shall meet again,

And laugh, and love and hug again,

And be thankful. *ML*



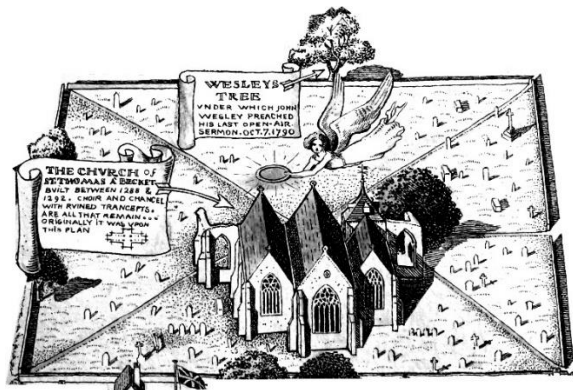
Please send copy for the March Magazine to
david@ryeview.net
on or before Sunday 28th February

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-ickleham-churches.org.uk

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



Rector of Winchelsea and Icklesham

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The Rectory, St Thomas Street, Winchelsea TN36 4EB

01797 226254 revdjonathan@btinternet.com

The Rector's day off is Monday

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