

WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

1st September 2021



Summer Fete

What glorious weather for the fete! The cricket field was alive with visitors and stalls. The main attraction, the Fun Dog Show, was an exciting centrepiece of activity and it drew a large number of entries across a variety of categories, including 'Waggiest tail' and 'Most like its owner.' The prize rosettes were presented by the Mayor and his choice of Best in Show was Maggie, a Cavapoo owned by 8-year-old Archie. The Best Reserve was Otto, a longhaired miniature Dachshund. Many thanks to Crick and Peter Hooper, their wonderful team and to Roger Tidyman for taking on the role of announcer so brilliantly.



At the other end of the field the cheery team from the Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat (PLIRB) showed off their rescue boat and manned a very popular barbecue. The Cricket Club provided the Pimms Bar and tea and cakes were served in the hall by a very busy team of helpers, thus meeting the traditional refreshment needs of fete attendees. A variety of stalls offered a wide range of goods from walking sticks to eco-friendly beeswax food wrap, from original artwork to colourful bags and baskets.





It was also pleasing to have the recently formed Winchelsea Residents' Association with a stall too. The games included the Bottle Stall, led with great success by John Lusk on behalf of FOAM, the ever busy Tombola Stall, with an enthusiastic team who had gathered an exceptional number of prizes, and the Raffle table with prizes donated by local businesses and Winchelsea's own expert in handicrafts, Sandra Mackenzie Smith.

The Hooe Band could sadly not attend after all, their practice session having been affected by Covid 19 restrictions, but TechEvent UK of Hastings, provider of the sound system, were able to provide the music at short notice.



The organisers, the New Hall Management Committee, would like to thank the Mayor for presenting prizes, all those who contributed to the Tombola and the Raffle and the many volunteers who helped to make this such a successful and enjoyable day; we couldn't do it without you all.

The overall takings amounted to £2,784, before expenses, and donations will be made to Rother Responders, Rye and Winchelsea Memorial Hospital and the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Service, The balance of the proceeds will go towards the upkeep of the New Hall.

New Hall Management Committee



Takings at the FOAM Bottle Stall at the Fete were £540 plus £34 for the few books sold, so a total of £574. Very many thanks to John Lusk who organised it and particularly Geraldine who gave tireless support. Also to the volunteers who staffed the stall during the day, and to the Winchelsea residents who so generously donated bottles of wine. A special thanks to Tony Davis who provided both the tables and the Gazebo and John Rodley who put the beast up and took it down again. Also Chris who help put up and seemed to be everywhere.



Resurfaced

Winchelsea New Hall held their first public celebration event for many, many months on Saturday 14th August with the Summer Fete and Fun Dog Show.

District Councillor Howard Norton took the opportunity to mark the completion of the exterior works at the Hall, comprising new tarmac and enhanced surface water drainage to the Hall entrance, with Chair of the New Hall Management Committee John Davidson, who gave his thanks to Howard for the generosity of Rother District Council which contributed £965 towards the works as one of their Community Fund projects.

The new tarmac eliminates the potholes and trips that presented hazards particularly to visitors with impaired mobility, and the Fete was the perfect occasion to celebrate this improvement as the parking spaces were reserved for Blue Badge holders for the day.

The improvements to drainage may seem a more arcane issue but, given that the heavy downpour in early July sent torrents of surface water off the A259 on to the New Hall entrance, having double the drainage capacity prevented serious damage. The weather for the Fete was of course perfect, but extreme weather events are forecast to be more frequent. Thank you Rother District Council and local Council Tax payers for your contribution.



Harvest Festival at St Thomas's

We will celebrate our Harvest Festival on Sunday 19th September at 11am. Following the service, we are having a Harvest Brunch in church. It is essential to book for this.

The cost is £8 per person, to include either a ham or cheese ploughman's with a glass of wine, followed by coffee and mints.

Please give your name to either of the churchwardens who will add your name to the list, indicating your choice. On receipt of payment, a ticket will be issued.

The harvest-themed Winchelsea Arts concert *Autumn Winds* follows at 5pm.

Church Markets

Calling all bakers, makers and allotment holders. We would welcome more produce to sell at our monthly markets. If you can help, please have a word with Charlotte Beecroft, either in church or call her on 01797 223159. Next market: Saturday 4th September.



Biodiversity in the Churchyard

Shirley Meyer writes: We recently had a very good morning working to clear ivy from walls, tombs and parts of the ruin and to tidy up weedy and scrubby grass areas which are considered a problem to the fabric of the buildings and stone.

A marvellous group of volunteers got together, bringing their own equipment and much was achieved. Beer and sandwiches were provided, the former being particularly necessary in the hot weather! There is still much to do and it is hoped that we may get in at least one more session before the colder weather. Thank you everyone!

Since I last wrote for the magazine much has happened. We have been lucky enough to receive a substantial donation towards the realisation of our churchyard biodiversity project. It means that we are in the fortunate position of being able to do everything in the best way, use appropriate methods and machinery, where necessary, and afford good quality resources so it's success shouldn't be comprised. I cannot thank our benefactor enough!

Those of you who have walked through the churchyard recently may have noticed three circular areas pinned out with yellow twine. These are the experimental areas

agreed by the PCC in which trials of different seed mixes will be sown. Even as we were marking out these areas a lot of interest and positivity was shown, which was great.

The first stage is to cut the turf off the top of these areas and remove it. The soil will then be raked and prepared for the sowing of wildflower and grass seed mixes in September. This means that throughout the first winter these areas will look rather bare.

However, they will be left to grow naturally and not mown in spring, as the rest of the churchyard will be. They will be cut with scythes in September 2022. It will be exciting to see what our mixes look like and what insects, bees and butterflies are attracted to the flowers. One of the group has even booked himself on a scything course!

Throughout the whole process these areas in question will be delineated using attractive rusted rope pins and natural sisal twine, so that they look well managed. Unobtrusive information boards will also be a feature and further details in the church porch. We really look forward to seeing how things develop and playing our part in making Winchelsea a more biodiverse area.

Shirley Meyer
on behalf of the PCC Churchyard sub-committee.



Winchelsea Garden Society

Autumn Show

- Flowers
- Floral Art
- Vegetables
- Fruit
- Handicrafts

The New Hall, Winchelsea
2:00 pm Saturday
11 September 2021

Show classes & entry forms:
01797 226062 or
g.rhodda@btinternet.com



To check out the many different items you can exhibit -
flowers, floral art, fruit, vegetables and handicrafts -
[click here.](#)

Icklesham Parish Council

This has been an unusual calendar year for the Parish Council. It started early in the year with a councillor being disqualified for non-attendance at meetings. That was followed by the Clerk and RFO deciding not to remain with us at the end of her probationary period.

The Deputy Clerk reporting sick and subsequently resigning without returning to work and the resignation of four Councillors. One of whom sought re-election but not before the Winchelsea electorate had called for an election, a process that we have yet to receive the bill for from Rother District Council's Electoral Team. Democracy does come at a cost.

As an interim measure, the Council appointed a locum Responsible Financial Officer to manage our finances. A process that was made difficult by the fact that all the resigning councillors were the councillors registered on our bank mandate, so we had no ability to pay accounts.

Thanks to Cllr Warren's career in banking, he was able to resolve that issue, reasonably quickly. Nothing happens quickly in the banking world other than collecting bank charges.

We have been criticised for not employing a locum Clerk. However, we were only provided with one name for that post, who offered us 10 hours per week, to cover 40 hours a week that our former clerks had worked and that at nearly three times the rate we had been paying.

This would not have been good value for money, and we would inevitably have found councillors having to plug the gaps. It made more sense for councillors to plug the gap from the outset, without cost. Cllr Mrs Stanford was appointed Acting Clerk, unpaid. Although it was clear she would not be able to give the time to fill the role to the extent that an officer employed for 30 hours a week had, it was essential to have someone in post to fulfil the role in respect of the duties only the Clerk can carry out.

There is a shortage of experienced Parish Clerks according to East Sussex Association of Local Councils

and this is confirmed by the fact that our locum RFO is currently supporting no less than eight Parish Councils at present.

Some good has come out of all this. The councillors still in office now have a much clearer idea of just how much work there is in running the Parish Council and how much more could have been done in the past. Our former officers maintained that their posts were not full-time roles. Our experience is that they should be if the Council is to provide the council tax payers with value for money.

With this experience in mind, the Council has appointed a new full-time Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Jenner Sands, and she is expected to take up her post in time for the September meeting. In addition, Council has agreed that there is a need for a full-time Assistant Clerk, whose priority will be ensuring that the Council property assets are maintained as they should be.

Unlike other Parish Councils, we tend not to have one of an asset, but at least one in each Community. Thus, we have four allotment sites (three owned, one rented), four parish noticeboards, five recreation grounds (four we own and one we maintain), five equipped play areas, seven bus shelters, numerous seats and footpath signs, and the Winchelsea lighting system. We also own Smeaton's Lane and are responsible for its maintenance. In addition, we manage the car park and public toilets at Rye Harbour. We also have an agreement in place with the Winchelsea Corporation to undertake maintenance of the Lookout in Winchelsea as it is a well-used public space and ought to be maintained from public funds.

We have considered offering to manage the public toilets at Winchelsea and Winchelsea Beach, but they are not in a usable condition. If Rother District Council get them back into use, Council can once again consider offering to manage them. Public toilets are a discretionary service as far as the District Council are concerned and they are not obliged to provide them. The Parish Council's view is that they are essential in an

area such as our parish that relies on tourism for much of its income.

Anyone who has used any of our recreation grounds this year will know that the standard of maintenance by our contractors has fallen well below an acceptable level, especially at Jubilee playground in Winchelsea, where the contractors failed to carry out any work for some weeks. Even now, there are still works outstanding.



An employee, making the weekly inspections required by our insurers would pick up on these issues quicker than the ward councillors reporting back to the clerk would do and would work to a more consistent standard across the parish. I would also expect them to make a valuable contribution to the process of drafting a contract next time we tender our maintenance programme.

I have noticed that our bus shelters have become an unwelcoming place to wait for a bus and I hope that under our new staffing regime we can put in place better maintenance of this important facility. Regular cleansing would be a good start.

The Council's Staffing Committee have appointed Danielle Hefferman as the Assistant Clerk. She will take up her post on 20th September. Neither of the new staff have any Local Government experience, which is

no surprise given the current shortage of experienced Clerks. The Clerk and RFO comes to us from a position in the legal world. The Assistant Clerk comes to us from a background in grounds maintenance.

This change to staffing levels is not expected to have any budget implication this financial year but will have an impact in future years. In agreeing the new staffing structure, Council had regard to the advice of the locum RFO. He has recently carried out a research project on Parish Councils in Sussex and the impact of our precept on the Council Tax for Band D properties is around the average, Rother District is on average higher than other councils. His advice was that we should focus on providing value for money and not just on the Council Tax implications.

Traffic Calming in Winchelsea

This is a good example of how our projects have been bogged down in the past because of the lack officer time to focus on projects and keep them on track. This project has been ongoing since 2018. There have been in-built delays due to Covid, and the lack of officers in post, but the fact that the Traffic Calming Group were able to focus on it, has meant that it has now moved forward more rapidly than it otherwise would have done.

Council has now agreed to appoint GTA Civils Ltd to draft proposals and they should receive their instruction to proceed immediately after the Bank Holiday. They would expect to report back within two to three months. The Council would expect that projects will progress more rapidly in future, with the new structure in place.

We have for some time discussed charging for the use of our recreation grounds for formal sports, but this has not yet been adopted. The lack of officer time has played a part in this. During the past year we have spent around 20% of our precept on recreation ground maintenance. It would be good to defray some of this cost.

Our internal auditor has reminded the Council of the need to plan on a three- year basis. We deliberately did not attempt a three-year plan when preparing our

current budget because of covid. A year ago, we had no idea what constraints covid would impose or how long they would last. The significance of a three-year plan to residents is that new projects may first appear in the third year and not come to fruition until they move into year one of the plan.

The benefit of that approach is that by the time the cost of a project has an impact on the precept, i.e., it is in year one, we should have everything in place to enable the project to go ahead much earlier in the financial year than is now the case.

Too many of our projects in recent years have been carried over from one financial year to the next, when they were capable of being concluded within the financial year. Another example of not having enough officer time in place.

Postal Address

Three years ago, the Council agreed that it was not appropriate to use officer's private addresses for the Council's address. At that time, we opened a PO Box number for Hastings. What we did not know then was that post from that Box No. would only be delivered to an address served by the Hastings delivery office.

When our Clerk resigned, Royal Mail would not deliver to our then Deputy Clerk as she resided in a different delivery office area, albeit within Hastings and St Leonards.

Council subsequently decided to open a new PO Box No that would deliver to any address in the parish that we nominated. The new address is PO Box 148 Winchelsea, TN31 9FP..

Cllr Peter Turner



Winchelsea Traffic Calming

At the Icklesham Parish Council meeting on 25th August the councillors approved the appointment of the consultants recommended by the Working Group for the initial design phase of a Winchelsea traffic calming scheme.

The arrangements for this study will be made by the council soon and we hope that it will begin in September. Details of the timetable and features of the study will be circulated when we know them.

There is a long way to go of course, to complete the project, including by securing the funding to enable it to be delivered. IPC also agreed a continuing efforts to address traffic problems throughout the parish, which the Winchelsea project has helped to stimulate. We can ensure that the issues of the A259 around Winchelsea will be included in this.

Winchelsea Traffic Calming Group

witcgroup@gmail.com



Bank Holiday Cricket

'Jo Turner's XI' played Winchelsea at a special match on Bank Holiday Monday. It was a chance to celebrate Steve Turner and to remember his contribution to the town and to cricket in Winchelsea and further afield. Jo's team was made up of players from local teams who had known Steve and played with him and against him over the years. The event provided an opportunity to fundraise for research into pancreatic cancer and also marked the naming of the pavilion in Steve's honour.





Town Reception

Well over 100 people were present at some stage during the reception laid on by the Corporation on Bank Holiday Saturday. It was a happy social occasion, bringing together residents who had hardly seen each other since Covid set in and providing an opportunity for newcomers and old hands to meet each other.

No fewer than sixteen town organisations had information on display and members available to chat informally about their activities.

We still don't quite know what tricks Covid may play on us in the months ahead but the reception was a welcome sign the community and its active life are starting to revive.

The Mayor, David Page, took the opportunity to thank all the good neighbours who had kept an eye out for people needing help during lockdown; to Paul and Debbie at the *New Inn* and Lee at *The Lodge* who had kept us supplied with takeaways and more; to Nathan and Danny at *The Farm Kitchen* who had not just kept the shop going but had also delivered food and medicines to those who couldn't get out; and to Philip Laverton whose support to the community goes way beyond simply delivering the post.



The Queen's Dues

Later this month, the Chamberlain to the Corporation will commence the annual round of requests to certain properties for the Queen's Dues. The Corporation has no revenue raising powers, so these dues represent a voluntary contribution towards the upkeep of the ancient monuments of the town and are applied to a total of 52 properties.

This custom dates from Queen Elizabeth I's visit to Winchelsea in the late sixteenth century. Apparently she was horrified by the state of the town, by then in serious decline due to the silting up of the harbour and the loss of its function as a port.

In an act of generosity she not only granted land to the Corporation but also passed on the income from her dues - a sort of ground rent paid to the monarch since Edward I purchased the land on which New Winchelsea was built.

The document listing the properties over which crown gave authority to collect the dues is held in the archives at the East Sussex Record Office and dates from 1586.

A framed print of the first page is on display in the Court Hall Museum.

The dues now realise a maximum of £20, but this was worth £4,500 in Tudor times. However, the Corporation really are grateful for the additional donations the holders of 'taxable' properties provide.

Winchelsea remains a Head Port of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports and is now a registered charity, voluntarily working to preserve the traditions of the town, as well as to provide a museum and, with the help of the Friends of the Ancient Monuments, to care for a number of historic buildings within the town.



Strand Hill railings

Since our report last month, word has come through that Strand Hill will be closed to vehicles while the railings are repaired. The work is scheduled for the end of this month.

Autumn Winds



The Maghards Ensemble bring music with an
Autumn and Harvest theme



St Thomas' Church Winchelsea TN36 4EB
Sunday 19th September at 5pm

Tickets online at winchelsea-arts.org.uk
and at the door

**Winchelsea
Arts**

£16
free for under 18s



www.winchelsea-arts.org.uk

[Click here](#) to see the full season programme

Cecil Herbert Stavenhagen Winchelsea's Own Revolutionary

John Clarke

Over sixty years ago a small boy was taken for tea at the home of a friend of his grandfather. It was a happy occasion. The gentle and kindly old man, known to everyone as Stave, enthused about astronomy and provided a splendid tea, including lavish amounts of Tiptree Small Scarlet jam. It made a lasting impression.

The boy was, of course, me. My grandfather was Jock Muir, a Glaswegian trade unionist. Stave was Cecil Herbert Stavenhagen whose family - according to the 1901 Census - lived in Friars Road in a house called *Waterkloof Cottage*.

Stavenhagen was, according to John Lloyd in his book *Light and Liberty: The History of the Electrical Trade Union* 'the most iconoclastic revolutionary the union ever produced'. Born in 1887 to parents who were enthusiastic imperialists - they named all their sons after great Victorian men - Stave was christened Cecil Herbert after Rhodes but refused to be known as anything but Stave.

Three elements of context are worth noting. Firstly, the poverty of electrical workers at the time. Disputes frequently took place over increases as small as a halfpenny an hour; the hourly rate in 1914 was 10½d. Secondly, electricity was an important emerging technology and its use doubled during the First World War. And thirdly, events at home and abroad - before and after the War - made the 'boss classes' (Stavenhagen's words) distinctly uneasy.

Stavenhagen was a syndicalist who believed in the class war. Articles he wrote included one on *The Necessity of Hate*. Hate was to be directed at anything - such as poverty - that was ugly. His views were expressed in purple prose. He wanted union members who were 'born fighters, clear thinkers and unrelenting antagonists of that degenerate system'. Some of his writing was so extreme that the ETU refused to print it.

Sandwiches in the Throne Room

His friendship with my grandfather, however, provided a number of good stories. They worked for the Office of Works, forerunner of the Ministry of Works, and were employed to rewire St James's Palace. John Lloyd records that they ate their sandwiches at lunchtime in the throne room, taking turns to mount the throne to deliver 'uplifting socialist lectures from an unrivalled source of authority'.



It was not just the employers that he opposed. The ETU was based in Manchester and there were battles between the ETU leadership there and the militant membership in London, led by Stavenhagen, Muir and their colleagues. On 27th October 1915, Stavenhagen became the only member of the union to have been expelled twice in a fortnight.

It is difficult to imagine the scale of union activities at that time. At the end of 1917, Stavenhagen was one of the leaders of a strike to gain a 12½% bonus for electricians. Victorious after a nine-hour meeting with Sir George Asquith, Stavenhagen and Muir rushed back to Holborn Hall to announce their triumph to 2,200 members.

Stavenhagen and Muir both fell foul of the authorities. The Albert Hall dispute - when Lloyd George ignored the pleas of Lansbury (later Labour leader) to allow a rally in the Albert Hall, led the ETU to threaten to black out all of Kensington. The rally went ahead with thousands locked out. This was industrial power used for a political purpose. A line had been crossed.

From my own researches, I have discovered that Stavenhagen and Muir were followed by the security services and certain activities were recorded in Cabinet minutes. Lloyd recorded Stavenhagen's close links with Irish nationalists and we know that he was prevented from visiting Ireland in 1916.

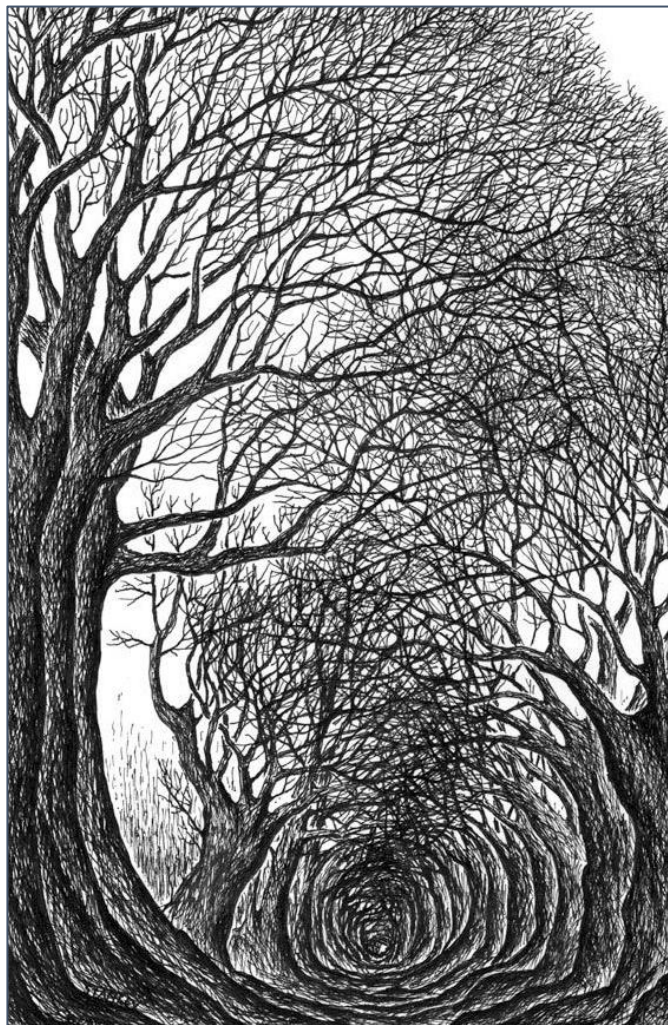
Conscientious objection

Unlike his brothers, four of whom served in the War - and three of whose names are recorded on the Winchelsea Roll of Honour - Stavenhagen was a conscientious objector. It offers some measure of the man that National Archives record show that he could have had exemption from military service because his work was a reserved occupation.

However, he instructed his employer not to apply for his exemption on those grounds and took his case to appeal on moral grounds only. We also know that he had a plan for the ETU to approach the Trades Union Congress with a view to using links with unions abroad to bring international pressure on governments to end hostilities.

And then, in 1921, at the height of his powers, Stavenhagen withdrew from the union, never to return. Lloyd speculates that this was in order to find work to feed his family since he had been blacklisted by many employers. He therefore set up a small business and his only sustained political activity was confined to naming his two goldfish 'Lenin' and 'Trotsky'.

We were delighted to move to Winchelsea almost a decade ago. Before then I had done some research on Stavenhagen but what I did not know was that he spent his childhood here and that, by accident, we had settled where it all began.



Second Wednesday Society

Hilary Roome writes: Following a well-received series of talks in the first half of the year, we are pleased to be able to tell you about our programme of talks for the next three months, which will start at the usual time of 2.30pm.

2ndWeds@gmail.com

September 8th (Zoom)
'Holloway' Dan Richards

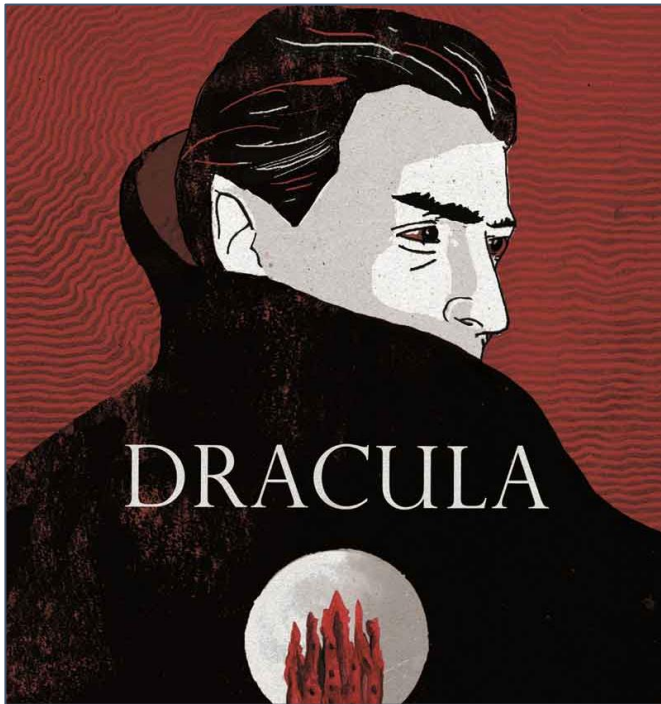
Our first talk will be Dan Richards who is a writer and author of several books. Those of you who also attend Literary Society will know Dan to be a very engaging speaker. He will be giving us a talk entitled "Holloway" which is the title of his book with Robert Macfarlane and illustrator Stanley Donwood.

This is not the prison, but those ancient sunken tracks and lanes which are to be found around Southern England. Dan will also talk about the making of his book, which was published as a very special letter-pressed limited edition in 2012 before being published in softback later. Please note that this talk will be on Zoom and Hilary Roome will send out the invitation nearer the time.

On October 13th we will welcome for the first time architectural historian Kathryn Ferry and her talk "Orientalism-on-Sea". Kathryn is the author of several books. I first spotted her on Michael Portillo's Great Railway Journeys, talking about the Lido at Saltdean. It was hard to choose from her interesting list of talks. The committee will decide nearer the time whether this talk will be in the New Hall or on Zoom

November 10th sees the welcome return of medieval historian Imogen Corrigan who will give us an illustrated talk on "The Cathars". Zoom or New Hall.

December 8th. Save the date. Subject to be confirmed.



Literary Society

The committee has decided that we should resume in-person meetings, and we hope that you will be able to come. Keeping ourselves and each other safe from Covid infection is paramount so to this end we are hiring the New Hall because it is more spacious than the Lower Court Hall and can be ventilated.

We are asking for an £8 subscription to see members through to the end of the year (four wonderful evenings) There will be the usual complimentary glass of wine.

Non-members are always very welcome - We usually ask for a donation of £5 for a single meeting but the committee has decided to ask you for £8. In return you will be given membership (and wine, of course), in the hope and confident expectation you would like to attend another meeting.

Friday 24th September **7pm for 7.30 at the New Hall**

We are very pleased to welcome back Dr Patricia Erskine-Hill. Previously we have enjoyed "Printing, Literacy and Bookselling in Early Renaissance Venice" and "Dante's Divine Comedy: Otherworld images from his poem". Patricia returns with a light-hearted look at Bram Stoker's novel and its times:

Vlad the Impaler and the Legend of Dracula.

Just when you thought we were getting back to normality!

Friday 8th October

New for our society. Not only is Dr Alastair Niven a literary scholar and author, he is also very influential in literature and in encouraging writing. He was last month awarded the Benson Medal by the Royal Society of Literature for outstanding contribution to literature. He has been Director of Literature at the Arts Council" and Director General of the Africa Centre, past President of English PEN and a Man Booker Prize judge. Alastair's talk to Winchelsea Literary Society talk is entitled "How do we help writers?"

Friday 19th November

We are most fortunate indeed to have Sir Anthony Seldon visit us to talk about his latest publication which some of you may have heard serialised on Radio 4. "The Good, the Bad and the Saucy: 300 Years of British Prime Ministers since 1721". We expect a full house for this event! Sir Anthony Seldon is an educator and well-known for the official biographies of Thatcher, Major, Blair, Brown, Cameron and May.

Friday 10th December

We are delighted that Sue and Tony Moore will be sharing their favourite readings in "With Great Pleasure...."

WinLitSoc@gmail.com

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



Two Literary Lectures

New Winchelsea resident, Dr Richard Ormrod, literary biographer, journalist and poet, will be giving two of the literature lectures at the Rye Arts Festival this month. The first will be at 11 am on 14th September in Rye Methodist Church on the subject of "War Poets of Kent & Sussex".

The second will be at 11am on 21st September at the same venue on "Radclyffe Hall - Novelist - in Rye". Tickets can be booked via 01797 462168 and online.





Winchelsea Archaeological Society

Freely open to all those interested in the archaeology of Winchelsea.

Saturday 25th September

11am to 12 on Zoom - Talk and Discussion

Winchelsea's South Side

Why is the New Gate at the bottom of the hill when the other two town Gates are near the top? Was there an Old Gate? Where is the New Gate Well? Why is the Hospital of the Holy Cross (the leper hospital) within the town defences, rather than outside, as elsewhere?

Saturday 30th October

10.30am to 11.15 on Zoom - Talk

Winchelsea's East Side

Comparison with a medieval fortified village, Monpazier in the Dordogne - founded by King Edward 1 in 1284 - four years before he founded New Winchelsea. Was there a South Gate in Winchelsea as well as a New Gate - as suggested by Homan? Does Friars Well still exist?

12.00 to 13.00 Walk

Meet at The Town Well to visit some of the sites on the south and east sides. Details are subject to ground conditions.

Saturday 27th November 11am to 12

Talk and discussion on future research - on Zoom or venue to be decided.

Andrew Scott will provide the Zoom-type presentations with plenty of pictures and not more than 45 minutes long.

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



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



Art Group trip to Dulwich

The Winchelsea Art Group had for many years been run by Alan McKinna and following his sad death last December, it was decided that the remaining money belonging to the group should be used to have a visit to see an exhibition in his memory. As he had always had a soft spot for the Dulwich Picture Gallery we decided to go there and see the “Unearthed” photography exhibition. dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk

The exhibition followed the roots of botanical photography which sprung from a desire to create pictures like the Dutch Old Master paintings, lifelike and full of detail. There were many and various examples including early gelatin and cyanotype prints; photographs by masters such as Henry Fox Talbot, Edward Weston, Karl Blossfeldt, Robert Mapplethorpe and Imogen Cunningham; fascinating Japanese tinted prints, digitally printed and embroidered textiles and two amazing installations.

I think we all enjoyed the day and having a change of scenery and a chance to get back to a more normal life. Rye company Nova Bussing provided a fantastic 16-seater bus, spotlessly clean and a pleasure to travel in and thanks to our lovely driver, Kevin, we had a great journey. I would recommend them anytime.

Shirley Meyer



Fellowship Lunch

Fellowship lunches will resume in September on the last Friday of each month as before. We hope that people will be comfortable meeting up again after the Covid lockdowns.

We will try to space the tables out as much as possible to allow for social distancing. The first lunch will be on Friday 24th September in Winchelsea Beach Village Hall a 12.30 for 1pm. Booking is essential. Please call Mary Parker to book or for more information. Anyone lives in Winchelsea, Winchelsea Beach or Icklesham or attends any of the churches in the benefice is welcome.

Mothers' Prayers

The mothers' prayers group is now meeting again as before in the meeting room a St Richard's Church, Winchelsea Beach. We meet at 10am on the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is on Tuesday 7th September. Any mothers who would like to pray for their children and grandchildren are welcome to join us.

Mary Parker

07927 107678 maryalan.parker@btinternet.com

OPERA

FOR A LATE Summer Evening



4th September - 7pm

Winchelsea New Hall

TN36 4AA

WITH

**Paul Hopwood
Thomasin Trezise
Philip Smith**

**From Glyndebourne
and The Royal Opera House**

Tickets £35

*Includes a complimentary glass of English
sparkling wine and canapés. Bar.*

Tel: 01797 224363

Email: dejlomkinson@btinternet.com

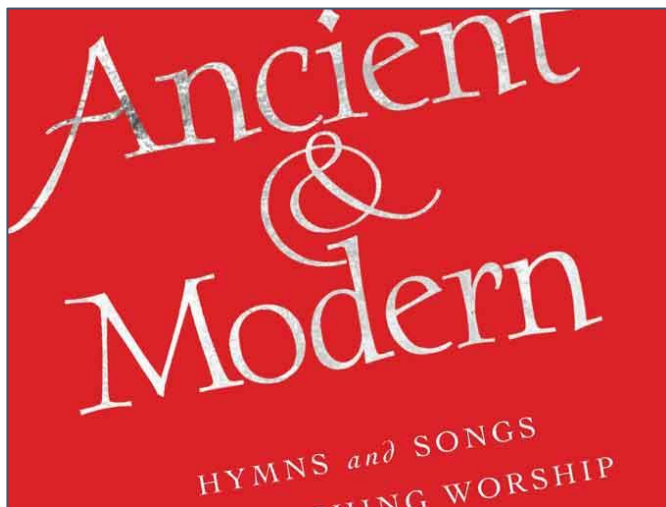
Dress: Black Tie or Lounge Suit

*All funds raised in aid of **Rye Harbour
Sailability (RHS)** www.ryeharboursailability.org*

SPONSORED BY



ryeharboursailability.org



Winchelsea Church Music

This is the time of year when we are 'reviewing the situation.' With new people now living in the town, there may be some who like to sing and would like to join the choir. As we are at the moment, harmony is a bit of a problem. I would welcome a few more men and any altos among you, as well as sopranos.

All you need is enthusiasm and commitment to be there for a practice and service each Sunday. And probably the ability to hit the right note!! You don't even need to know all the hymns, we can teach those. Practice time, place and day are under discussion. New members would be warmly welcomed.

I have asked before, and been deafened by the silence! Does anyone play an instrument of any kind; strumming, or blowing varieties. We could use you once a month, not every week.

If any of this interests you, please have a chat with me.
01424 815247 marion@abingworth.plus.com

Marion Lovell



Winchelsea Anniversaries

25 Years Ago

The year 1996 saw the death of one of Winchelsea's nationally known residents, Charles Proctor OBE who lived for many years in Higham Green. He was a concert pianist, composer, teacher, conductor and the author of a number of books on musical subjects.

Born in London in 1906, he went to Highgate School and from there to study at the Royal Academy of Music. Although he embarked on a career as a concert pianist, it was as a conductor that he became well known. In 1940, at the request of Sir Henry Wood, he formed the Alexandra Choir which The Daily Telegraph's obituary states 'played an important part in music in London for forty years'.

Charles was its conductor until 1978. The year before he retired from that position he brought the choir to St Thomas's, Winchelsea where, under his baton, they sang his anthem *Rejoice O Land in God thy might* composed specially for the Confederation of the Cinque Ports' celebration of the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

By that time Charles had been appointed by Sir Malcolm Sargent as chorus master of the Royal Choral

Society and during Sir Malcolm's later years when ill-health kept him from the rostrum Charles took over the baton on a number of occasions at the Royal Albert Hall. In retirement in Winchelsea with his wife Rosemary he was organist and choirmaster at Rye Parish Church for 20 years, remaining much in demand for relief duties elsewhere.

A memorable example of his music in Winchelsea came when, at the service celebrating the 700th anniversary of the town's mayoralty, he played *The Lord Warden's Rondo* which he had originally composed for Her Majesty the Queen Mother's visit to Rye Church in 1980.

In addition to his many musical activities, Charles Proctor, like his wife, was a talented painter. Their home in Hiham Green was crammed with his oil paintings and her water colours - pictures of their house and garden as well as many local landscapes and seascapes.

Rosemary Proctor died just one year before Charles who played for the last time a few days before his own death ended a wonderful and distinguished musical life.

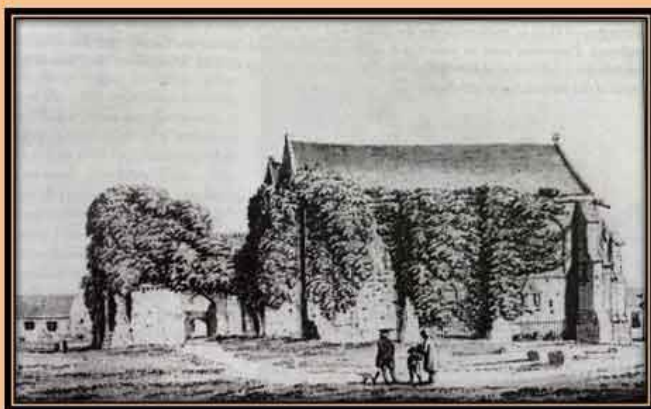
Malcolm Pratt



Friends of the Ancient Monuments & Museum of Winchelsea (FOAM)

WINCHELSEA HISTORY A REMARKABLE STORY

**Talk by
MALCOLM PRATT MBE
Local Historian**



The 18th century view of the south front of St. Thomas's Church contains the earliest known depiction of the present Court Hall

**Saturday 9th October 2.30 for 3pm
Winchelsea New Hall**

**Free to members (donations welcome)
Non-members £5**

**Raffle
Tea & Cakes served following the talk**

www.winchelsea-foam.org.uk



Winchelsea New Hall

Committee chair, John Davidson, writes: I must start by thanking everybody who, in any way, supported the very successful Summer Fete this year, after what has been a very difficult time for all. A special thank you must go to Carol Scoines and her team, and Crick Hooper and her team for organising and managing the event, plus everybody else who made things, helped, set things up, ran stalls, attended, collected, carried, or cleared up, all so efficiently.

It is very satisfying to see the New Hall, with its array of facilities and unique position, being used in such a variety of ways. As a centrepiece for community fetes and fairs, as an increasingly popular venue for wedding receptions and special family events, or as the perfect meeting place for established groups, and newly formed ones such as the Residents Association and the Wine Society, as a hub for the performing arts such as the upcoming opera evening on 4th September, or for regular groups such as Zumba, Pilates, Tomboogie, Table Tennis, and others that just need a good space with reliable back-up facilities, the New Hall seems to be the perfect venue for the whole community. Do keep coming!

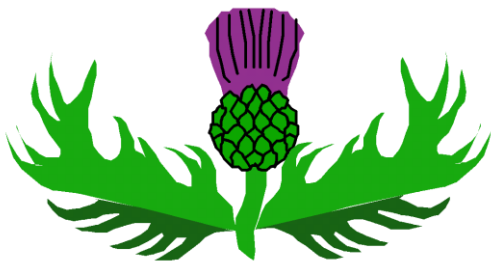
New Hall Annual General Meeting

Don't forget to attend our AGM on Saturday 2nd October at 2pm in the Lower Court Hall, to hear what has been achieved over this last year, what is happening now, and what are the plans for the coming year. The New Hall is your space, your facility. Come and let us hear what you think, together with suggestions and new ideas for use of this amazing community facility.

We have one vacancy on the Management Committee, and would welcome somebody who is keen to be involved. If you would like to join our very active team, to help maintain and develop the Hall, its facilities, and its use, then please do contact us on 01797 223754, or through any committee member.

To find out more about the New Hall, what it offers, how to book it, or find out what's on, please go to the town website, phone 07422 724051, or email newhallbooking@winchelsea.com

Meanwhile, keep well, and thank you from
The New Hall Management Committee



Winchelsea Scottish Country Dance Club

Free taster Sessions at Winchelsea New Hall on
Thursdays 16th and 30th September from 9.30 to 10.30.
Beginners are very welcome. No partner needed

For more details contact Maddy Coelho
maddycoelho@hotmail.com



Poo problem

The Cricket Club asks all dog walkers, please, to pick up their dog poo when using the Cricket Ground.

It is not pleasant for the players if they walk or fall in it while a match is in progress (and this has recently happened).

In fact, the cricket ground isn't a public recreation ground. The gates from the New Hall and behind the cricket pavilion will be padlocked once the season has finished. The only public right of way is through the kissing gate on the main road across the field.



Rescue Boat

July and August are our busiest fundraising months, visiting fetes with our boat and merchandise. At our visit to the wonderful Winchelsea fete meant huge fun with the BBQ too and raised over £300. We also had two successful visits to Co-op at Winchelsea Beach, raising just over £600 towards our equipment upgrades. So a big thank you to all of the folk across the Winchelsea Parish for supporting us.

We've now also held our first Open Day in 2 years and are very pleased to announce that our funds raised actually topped £6,000, including the fantastic Hot Tub raffle fundraiser, kindly donated by Homewood Leisure. It really was one of the best-attended Open Days we've had - our stall holders also did well and there was plenty of fun in the fundraising all around. Thank you to everyone for their involvement and support.

Our latest online auction is currently open with bidding accepted until 19:00 on Sunday 5th September - so if you're a Facebook user, just LIKE our PLIRB Online Events & Charity Merchandise page <https://www.facebook.com/SupportingPLIRB> to receive an invitation to the group and join in by bidding or adding your listings!

Finally for this month, September 30th is the deadline for our *Calendar Photo Competition*. Photo entries are welcome in exchange for a £5 donation and winners could feature on our 2022 calendar. Friend of the PLIRB, comedian Jo Brand is our judge and Max Spielmann of Hastings is contributing the top prize of a canvas print of the overall winning photo, so please join in with your photos!

Safety wise, remember, remember the tides of September as the seasons change! Our main call-outs this year (so far) have been for people cut off by the tides and, as the seasonal high tides make flooding incoming tide more perilous and likely to catch people unawares, tide times should always be checked before visiting local beaches. At Pett Level and Cliff End, please also be mindful of the rockfalls which have continued throughout the year, so please warn any late visitors you have.



Until next time, stay safe, take care and be beach aware. If you'd like to keep in touch, please check out our website <https://plirb.com> or our social media: Twitter @PLIRBRescue; Facebook @PettLevelRescueBoat and Instagram @pettlevelindyrescueboat.



**RYE, WINCHELSEA & DISTRICT
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL INVITES
YOU TO OUR**

CENTENARY OPEN DAYS

Come and join us on one of the following dates at The Hub on Rye Hill to celebrate the Centenary of the Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital which has been serving the local community for 100 years!

**FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER
2-4PM**

**SATURDAY 25
SEPTEMBER 10AM-12PM
AND 2-4PM**

All open day events will be held at the Hub on Rye Hill, Kiln Drive, Rye Foreign

DON'T MISS OUT!

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL!

There is no charge but it would be helpful if you could let us know you are coming. There will be tea, coffee and cakes on Friday afternoon and on Saturday as well as light refreshments there will be activities for children. A fascinating exhibition about the Hospital can be seen on both days plus a film showcasing the role that the hospital plays today. Come and join the fun!

For more details or to become a Friend, please visit www.ryehospital.org.uk or contact fundraising@ryehospital.org.uk or call 01797 223810.

Alternatively, pop into the Hub and speak to one of our friendly Hub Coordinators about these events.





Patricia Dawes

Patricia died on 17th August. She was 84 and in recent years had been living at Old Hastings House.

After a career with the Diplomatic Service in the UK and overseas, she retired to Winchelsea where her parents had also lived. With much experience in supporting Foreign Office families, Patricia trained as a counsellor and became chair of trustees of the Hastings and Rother Counselling Service (now Counselling+).

Liberal in her Christian outlook and worshipping for several years at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Patricia was a committed supporter of progressive and humanitarian causes. She was part of the parish group that went to Israel/Palestine in 2011, and served on Winchelsea PCC.

Her funeral will be held at St Thomas' on Tuesday 7th September at 12 noon.



Pamela Buxton

Pam Buxton died on 21st August. Known to many in Winchelsea, Pam was a regular worshipper at St Thomas' in recent years along with her husband, Paddy, the former Rector of Rye. There's an appreciation in *Rye News*:

ryenews.org.uk/news/pamela-buxton-rip



Rye Food Bank

Cam will continue to pick-up doorstep donations on the third Tuesday of every month and any donations that may have been placed in the crate at St Thomas'.

The next collection date is Tuesday 21st September. If you would like to donate food items the Rye Foodbank, please give him a ring, so he can co-ordinate a pick-up from your front door. Thank you!

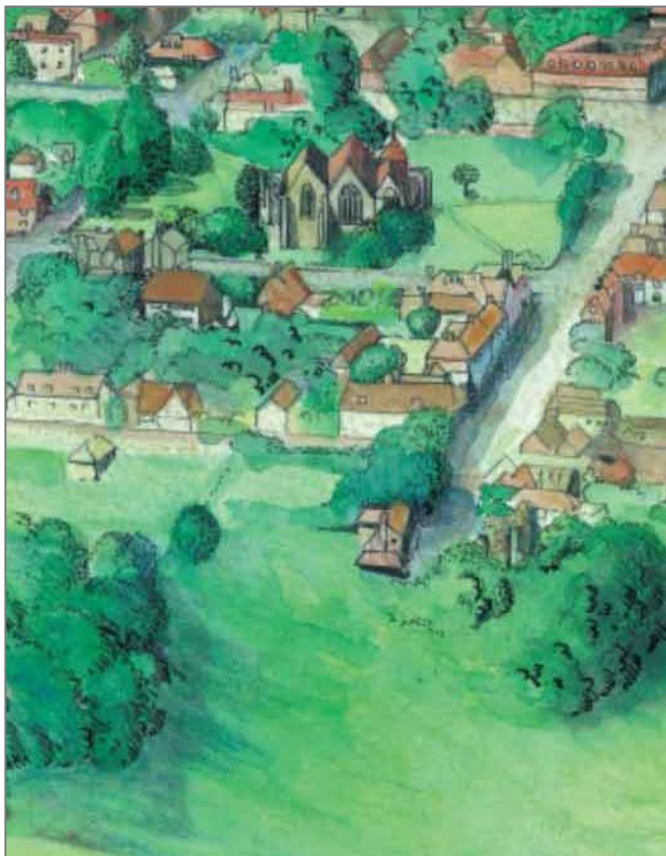
Donald Cameron-Clarke 01797 226414

Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar
September 2021

- Saturday 4th Church Market - 10.30 till 12
- Sunday 5th** 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham
Trinity 14 11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'
- Tuesday 7th Mothers' Prayers - St Richard's - 10am
Funeral of Patricia Dawes - St Thomas' - 12pm
- Wednesday 8th Second Wednesday talk - Zoom - 2.30pm
- Saturday 11th Autumn Show - New Hall - from 2pm
- Sunday 12th** 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham
Trinity 15 11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'
- Wednesday 15th Conservation Society visit to Knole
- Sunday 19th** 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham
Trinity 16 11am: Harvest Festival Eucharist at St Thomas'
Harvest lunch at St Thomas'
Winchelsea Arts Concert - Church - 5pm
- Friday 24th Hospital at Rye - Centenary Open Days
Fellowship Lunch - Winchelsea Beach Hall - 12.30 for 1pm
Literary Society - New Hall - 7pm for 7.30
- Saturday 25th Hospital at Rye - Centenary Open Days
Winchelsea Archaeological Society Zoom talk - 11am
- Sunday 26th** 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham
Trinity 17 11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'
- Saturday 2nd Church Market - 10.30 till 12
New Hall AGM - Lower Court Hall - 2pm
- Sunday 3rd Oct** 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham
Trinity 18 11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'
Winchelsea Arts Concert - Church - 4pm
- Fri 8th Oct Literary Society - New Hall - 7pm for 7.30
- Sat 9th Oct FOAM talk - New Hall - 3pm
- Weds 13th Oct Second Wednesday talk - Zoom or New Hall - 2.30pm

Further ahead

Sat 13th Nov Christmas Fair



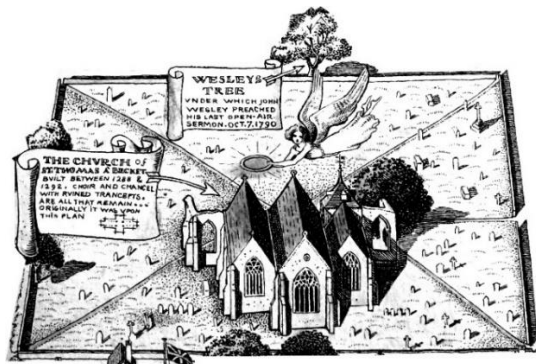
Please send copy for the October Magazine to
ryeview@gmail.com
on or before Thursday 30th September

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

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01797 223159 ccmburrin@gmail.com

Celia King

Stargazer, Morlais Place TN36 4LG

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PCC Secretary

Angela Hill

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Parish Treasurer

Vacancy

Gift Aid

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Electoral Roll Officer

Jeremy Naylor

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07985 734936 jrnaylor@gmail.com

Organist

David Birchenough

07840 595338 daviddaorganist@icloud.com

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01424 815247 marion@abingworth.plus.com

St Thomas' Primary School

Headteacher Carol Gardiner

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01797 226479

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

St Richard's Chapel Warden

Mary Parker

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St Richard's Secretary

Pamela Jefferies 01797 222904

St Richard's Treasurer

David Jefferies 01797 222904

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