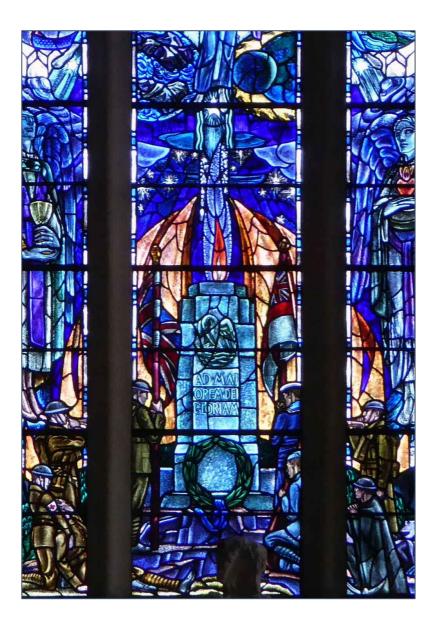
WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

1st November 2021





Reflections from the Rectory

We are blessed in Winchelsea town to have such a wonderful church right at its centre. It dominates the ancient grid system adopted by Edward I to mirror the bastides of Gascony. Often visitors are amazed by how open and airy our church is; not at all typical for what is essentially a country parish church.

It is a great privilege for me to be able to serve here and I constantly feel uplifted by the surroundings when presiding at our Parish Eucharist. It is not common to be able to have such a commanding view of the surroundings and the worshipping community. As I have mentioned before this is the third church I have been associated with in my ministry that appears in Simon Jenkins' *Thousand Best Churches*; only another 997 to go.

Much of our building goes back to its very foundation in 1288 and the tracery decorating the Alard tomb as well as the unusual split cusp tracery, only known in this part of the country which fills the East window, all speak of the significance of the church. Of course over the years there have been additions but unusually the architectural form probably remains largely unchanged. There have however been other changes over the years. Apart from the monuments and memorials, particularly those on the west wall of the south aisle, the most striking of these changes is our series of windows by Strachan and of course the imposing organ dominating the west wall. As well as commenting on the beauty of the church most people are astonished by the windows and I have never heard anyone suggest that they do not fit in to our late mediaeval building.

Strachan's windows remind us that we are custodians of a living building. The church is not only framed in stone and mortar but it is a place for us to praise God each Sunday and to offer more reflective prayer at other times.

Today all changes and alterations to the building need to be overseen by a body called the D.A.C., the Diocesan Advisory Committee (incidentally I have just been invited to sit on this committee). Sometimes it is regarded as a hindrance to change but it is simply a welcome check on unsuitable and outlandish development. The committee needs to bear in mind that our churches are not just historical monuments they are living buildings and as such they will allow modern additions as long as they are in tune with the character of the place. More often than not they are happy to approve work of quality which affirm that buildings have always grown and changed.

I'm hopeful that in the next year or so we will be able to consider some changes that chart the growth and development of our church and while honouring its ancient heritage also prepare us for the future; reminders that the church has a living spirit.

We have just installed Wifi, which will be fully functional very soon and I very much hope we will be able to move ahead with proposals for lighting, which will not only do justice to the building but also reduce our carbon emissions and electricity bill.

We thank God for a beautiful building and pray for its future and spiritual heart. *Jonathan*



Thanksgiving for the Departed Sunday 7th November at 4pm at St Thomas'

All Souls Day falls on 2nd November and we usually have a service for the departed. All those who have lost someone in the benefice during the last year will be invited and anyone else is welcome.

Names of the departed will be remembered and there is a chance to light a candle. Tea is served afterwards but anyone who wishes to leave quietly should not feel any obligation to stay.



Remembrance - 11th and 14th

There will be a short Act of Remembrance at Winchelsea War Memorial at 11am on Thursday 11th November. St Thomas' School are planning to bring Year 6 class to this.

On Remembrance Sunday, 14th, at 11am the Mayor will lead the wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial. All who wish to lay wreaths during the ceremony are welcome to do so. Four house captains will lay a wreath on behalf of the school.

There will then be a Service of Remembrance in the Church, with donations made at that service going to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

There will be a short Said Eucharist at St Thomas' at 9.30am on 14th.



Poppy Appeal

This year's Poppy Appeal will run from 30th October to 13th November.

There will again be no house-to-house collection in Winchelsea, but donation tins and trays containing poppies and pins will be available at The Farm Kitchen, The New Inn, Winchelsea Lodge, the Co-op, Sutton's Shop, The Ship Inn/Jamie's Butchers and Winchelsea Sands. As ever, donations will be gratefully accepted by the Royal British Legion (RBL) with gift aid being much appreciated.

Donations can be made electronically to the RBL, Sort Code 30-11-75, Account Number 01937121, using the payment reference SFF24. They can also be made by texting POPPY2, POPPY5, or POPPY10 (to donate£2, \pounds 5 or £10) to 70545.

A stock of gift aid envelopes will be available at the back of the Church for cash or cheques (made payable to RBL Poppy Appeal) and these should be placed in the Black Box in the Church, or in any box at the above locations, before 15 November. If you have any difficulty in getting hold of any remembrance material you need, in making a donation, or have any questions about this year's appeal, please call John Rodley on 01797 223458.

britishlegion.org.uk



The future of St Richard's

It has already been reported that our sister church in Winchelsea Beach is facing serious problems. The church was built in 1961 but now faces a very large bill for restoration works and unfortunately the basic foundations and some of the structure is not sound.

The current position is that the PCC voted unanimously "reluctantly to proceed with the closure of the church subject to the approval of the diocese". A public meeting took place on Wednesday 27th October in the community hall at Winchelsea Beach so that the rector could explain the situation. A little over 30 people attended, including six regular worshippers and seven or eight residents as well as PCC members and other parishioners from the benefice. Disquiet was expressed and there was a general feeling that it would be desirable to save the church, however to date no concrete proposals or suggestions from the local community were put forward.

The Rector expressed the view that any serious efforts to raise money would need to come from the local community, although of course he and the PCC would support initiatives where appropriate. He added that it would have to be considered whether expending large amounts of money and effort (if that was forthcoming) on a building with around six regular worshippers was a Christian response to the situation.

It was also made clear that any decision to close the church would need to be followed by a plan as to what should be done with the building and the land and professional advice would be sought.

It is hoped that future planning would involve the PCC, the local community and the local council. It must however be in accordance with the Charities Act, which should ensure that any outcome was in accordance with the aims of the relevant charity, in this case the PCC of the Parish of Winchelsea, in which the church of St Richard's is situated. Any further proposals for the future will be gratefully accepted and considered.

Whatever happens Winchelsea Beach remains the responsibility of the Rector of Winchelsea and Icklesham and we are committed to maintaining a Christian presence.

The PCC meets on 13th November and it is likely that we will vote to make the necessary commitments to obtain professional advice with regard to the church building and site. It should be noted that it will be several months before it would be impossible to reverse such a decision, although at present, after reflection and prayer, there are no obvious alternatives.



The Impossible Office?

On Friday 19th November, Winchelsea Literary Society will be hosting a talk by Sir Anthony Seldon.

Sir Anthony is the author of more than 35 books on history, politics and education. He is a renowned commentator, educationalist, contemporary historian, broadcaster and the official biographer of several British Prime Ministers - Blair, Thatcher, Brown, May, Cameron and Major.

Postponed from last year, Sir Anthony's talk is entitled, *The Good, the Bad and the Saucy - 300 years of British Prime Ministers*. It is about his latest book *The Impossible Office? The History of the Prime Minister* published this year. Either bring along your copy to be signed or there will be a few copies for sale.

We expect this to be a very popular event. It would be very useful to us to know if you intend to come: please email $\underline{winlitsoc@gmail.com}$ We look forward to seeing you at 7 for 7.30 at the New Hall. Members free, nonmembers £8, to include a glass of wine.



Second Wednesday Onion Domes, Urban Myths and Sponge Cake

After nineteen months of Zoom meetings, a live Second Wednesday Society test event was held at the New Hall, on 13th October.

The architectural historian, Kathryn Ferry, enthralled the audience with her talk "Orientalism on Sea". She was vastly knowledgeable, particularly engaging and welcomed the opportunity to share her passion with us in person. On her way over, she took advantage of the glorious weather and revisited St Leonards, to revel in its architecture and deepen her understanding of her subject matter.

She later posted photos, as well as ones of her trip to Winchelsea, on Twitter, where she can be found <u>@SeasideFerry</u> She explained to us how onion domes became part of the vernacular of British architecture and why so many theatres, pleasure palaces and bingo halls are called The Alhambra.

But one of her most surprising facts was about black painted metalwork and railings. In 1861, upon the death of Prince Albert, according to folklore, Queen Victoria declared "...Paint everything black". This however is an urban myth. As she explained, fast drying black resin paint wasn't invented until the late 1950s. Following Kathryn's oriental tales, the afternoon tea that the Second Wednesday Society is equally well known for was served, but in a quite different fashion to usual. We are very conscious of our place in the Winchelsea calendar and therefore of our responsibility to our members.

For this reason, we made safety our primary concern. The entire afternoon was seated. We gathered in groups of six to enjoy the lecture and were then served cake, sandwiches and tea in situ.

This very successful gathering means we can look forward to Wednesday 10th November with confidence, when our speaker will be the medieval historian Imogen Corrigan. She will talk to us about 'The Cathars'.

On behalf of the Committee, I'd like to thank the many friends, old and new, who have gone out of their way to let us know how much they enjoyed their Wednesday. With careful planning, the concern and apprehension of large gatherings was removed.

The personal attention shown, encouraged a relaxed atmosphere and engendered a sense of joy and community that so many of us have missed these many months. With the strength and courage of a thousand years of history behind us, finding a new way of doing familiar things gives us hope and shows that Winchelsea is also a 21st century town.

Natasha Robinson

2ndWeds@gmail.com



Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra



Nielsen

J S Bach Keyboard Concerto Mozart

Dvořák Serenade for Strings

£16



St Thomas' Church Winchelsea TN36 4EB Saturday 13th November at 7.30pm

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

Winchelsea

Arts

<u>winchelsea-arts.org.uk</u>

Click here to see the concert programme



Bishop Will at St Thomas'

The bishop of Lewes was at St Thomas' on Sunday 31st October. He took office during lockdown and this was his first visit to us. The service was a joint one for Winchelsea, Winchelsea Beach and Icklesham. Grace O'Neill from Winchelsea and Jessica and Benjamin Sasse-Walker from Icklesham were confirmed.



St Thomas' Christmas Card

Order early for Christmas! The 2021 Christmas card, designed by Shirley Meyer, is a linocut with gouache and gold ink. The design shows the wildflowers for which we wait with bated breath over the winter period. A promise of good things to come.

The cards are the same size as in previous years - 6" x 6" - and will be £6 for a pack of 10. A bargain!

Orders are being taken by Deborah Rodley <u>debbo14@hotmail.com</u> 01797 223458 and they will be on sale at Church Market on 6th November. 350 pre-orders are already in! All profits go to church funds.



Mothers' Prayers

The mothers' prayers group meet at 10am on the first Tuesday of each month at St Richard's. The next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd November at 'Dabchick Cottage', Morlais Place. Any mothers who would like to pray for their children and grandchildren are welcome to join us.

Fellowship Lunch

Lunches resumed in September and the first one went really well and everyone seemed very happy to be there. The next will be on Friday 26th November in Winchelsea Beach Community Hall, 12.30 for 1pm. This is the last lunch in 2021; there won't be one in December. Booking is essential. Contact Mary Parker 01797 229798 or 07927 107678.



Winchelsea Beach Community Association

Second Saturday of the month: Saturday 13th November Saturday 11th December Coffee Morning and Stalls 10.30 - 12.30 Ring Jacky 07947 618989

Sunday 21st November Craft Fayre 11am - 4pm

Wednesday 22nd December Carols Round The Tree. 6.30 for 7pm

winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk



Winchelsea New Hall in November

Many thanks to all those who battled through the rain to attend the Annual General Meeting last month. We really appreciate the opportunity to bring you up to date with all matters concerning the hall over the last year, and hear your comments and ideas. Very useful.

Following the A.G.M. we are pleased to welcome Graham Large and Wendy Chapman onto the Committee, which continues to function at full strength.

Our next major public event in the hall is the Christmas Fair on Saturday 13th November. Take this opportunity to begin your Christmas shopping, with individual and unique crafted items both large and small.

Also this month is a new venture, and a first for the New Hall. *Something Else* is a classic rock and roll band, who will be holding a dance on Saturday 20th November in the hall, beginning at 7pm. This should be a great evening, and is open to all. Many of you may

have already heard the band without realising it, as they regularly rehearse in the New Hall. Now is your chance to hear this popular local band up close.

Brush up those quiffs, dust off those sneakers, and come and dance the night away, or just sit back and reminisce. See you there. Tickets are £7.50 (or £12.50 to include a fish and chip supper), available from Andy: 07795 198588 or Georgie: 07900 732398. Bring your own drinks. Rock & roll dress is encouraged, but not compulsory.

Finally, don't forget the first AGM of the Winchelsea Residents Association which takes place in the hall on Saturday 6th November

We are pleased to say, as we race towards 2022, bookings continue to increase. Please do look at the website: <u>winchelsea.com/new-hall</u> for the calendar of events, clubs and activities, or to find out about bookings.

The New Hall Management Committee are working hard to bring you an active and lively facility for the whole community. Thank you from us all.



Residents' Association AGM

Winchelsea Residents' Association's first AGM will be held on Saturday 6th November at 11.30am at the New Hall. We will be mindful of Covid precautions.

Over the last few months a group of residents has drafted the Constitution, formed an initial committee, created an email address and the domain for a website, opened a bank account and begun consultation with residents about what issues they are most interested in. Over 140 residents have joined as initial members.

The meeting will take the vital next step in formally establishing the WRA, We will consider the administration and governance of the new association, including the draft constitution and the formation of the management committee.

We will then consider how we can begin to get on with our central aim which is to establish and pursue the issues of most interest and concern to residents of Winchelsea. This will include reports on some of the issues which are currently of active concern

A vital first task is to establish a Committee which is able to represent and understand the views of the town. We have nine nominees so far, all of whom have played an active role in getting the WRA up and running to this stage - myself, Richard Plumb, Laurie Rutman, Paul Veys, Catherine Owens, Brian Leonard, Jane Taylor, Linda Bass and Sarah Andrews. We would welcome at least three additional committee members and if you feel you could contribute well on the committee of our new association please let us know by no later than Thursday 4th November.

The Committee will then be elected at the AGM and if additional members are required and available after then, which may especially be the case in this first year, the Committee will use its co-option powers to do this.

There is a lot to deal with at this first AGM and, so as not to overburden the detail of Agenda and ask members to respond to too much in one go, we propose to bring the Constitution back for review alongside a full set of associated rules and polices at our second AGM, which we currently plan to hold in May 2022.

If you have any comments prior to the meeting please send them to *info@winchelseara.com*

winchelsea Christmas Fair

Grand Raffle

Tickets on Sale now in the Winchelsea Shop

Exciting Prizes include: * Fairlight Hall Garden Tour for 10 people with coffee and cake * * Rye Retreat massage and hair cut * * Rye Harbour Nature Reserve – 3 night wildlife survey of your garden * * Winchelsea Shop Hamper * * Charles Palmer bottle of Sparkling Classic Cuvee *

And more! Our thanks to all prize donors: Rye Lodge, New Inn, Kino, Knoops, Garden Gems, Rye Chocolates, Salts Farm, Hannah Pilates, The Green House, Deborah Upton Wreaths.

The draw to take place at the Winchelsea Christmas Fair on Saturday 13th November at 3pm

In aid of the Winchelsea New Hall and Rye Food Bank Winchelsea New Hall – Registered Charity No. 235174

Christmas Fair

Please come and support us and start your Christmas present shopping early!

We have an amazing range of stallholders this year selling everything from jewellery, clothing, artwork, toys, walking sticks and bags, to ceramics, antiques, collectables, prints, winter bulbs, bird boxes, insect houses and plants & alpine tufa planters.

The "food hall" zone will be offering wine tasting and selling a range of festive treats, bubbly, chocolates and chutneys.

As a reminder, any donations for the adult and children's tombola would be very welcome. The theme is drinks (bottles of wine would be great), Christmas goodies, chocolates and sweets. All donations by Tuesday 9th November please.

Please drop off at Wren Cottage, High Street (next to the shop), or contact Chris Chappell or Ali Casey who will gladly collect from you. <u>Ali.Casey63@gmail.com</u> <u>ChrisWinchelsea@icloud.com</u>

Tickets are now on sale for the Grand Christmas Raffle in the shop or can be purchased from Rosemarie Roberts <u>*rroberts96@yahoo.co.uk*</u> or on the day at the Christmas Fair.

Top prizes include Fairlight Hall gardens tour for 10 (with coffee and cake), Rye Retreat haircut and massage and a Rye Harbour Nature Reserve wildlife survey of your garden over 3 nights!

Please remember to bring your masks.

All profits from the Christmas Fair will go to the New Hall and Rye Food Bank.

WINCHELSEA Christmas Fair

& Grand Christmas Raffle

Saturday 13th November 11am - 3pm Winchelsea New Hall

In aid of the Winchelsea New Hall (Reg. Charity No. 235174) and Rye Food Bank



Icklesham Parish Council

Meetings in November

Monday 8th Planning Committee at 6.15, followed by Full Council in the New Hall Winchelsea at 7.15. Monday 22nd. Planning at the Court Hall, Winchelsea. This may be followed by a Committee Meeting if Committees are re-appointed on 8th November.

Council

The Council is now back to a full complement of Councillors. The Winchelsea vacancy having been filled following a formal electoral process at which Cllr Smedley was returned unopposed. The four Icklesham vacancies having been filled by co-option at the last Council meeting.

Contrary to some views, despite the recent vacancies the Parish Council has always been properly constituted, with enough Councillors remaining in office to maintain a quorum, which is 5 Councillors. We have never had less than 7 Councillors in office throughout the difficult period we have just come through.

In addition, we now have both new officers in post and performing their duties well. The new Assistant Clerk is already getting to grips with poor performance by our main grounds maintenance contractor and negotiated a cost reduction in respect of works not carried out in accordance with the contract. There will inevitably be some hiccups along the way as they are both new to local government and training cannot all be done at once.

Traffic calming in Winchelsea

The Consultant is currently preparing proposals for the Council's consideration. He is expected to report before the end of the year.

Winchelsea Beach sewerage problems

Your parish council has been trying to arrange with our MP to hold a public meeting with Southern Water staff in attendance to discuss the ongoing problems and try to move forward towards a more permanent solution than a fleet of tankers that only add to the immediate residents' frustration.

Our MP's view is that the residents would not wish to risk coming to a meeting before the Spring, because of the ongoing issues of Covid. The Parish Council's view is that the sooner we have a meeting the better otherwise the situation will just drag on and on and we may miss the opportunity to get improvements to the sewerage scheme at Winchelsea Beach into the next five-year plan for Southern Water.

We also consider that there is no guarantee that the Covid risk will be any less in six months' time than it is now. We understand that Southern Water are happy to attend a meeting whenever it is called. Please let us have your views on when a meeting should be held by emailing the Clerk at <u>ickleshampc@hotmail.com</u> or by writing to The Clerk at Icklesham Parish Council, PO Box 148, Winchelsea, TN31 9FP. It would be helpful to have views on this available by 15th November.

Defibrillator

This has been ordered and hopefully will soon be installed on the pavilion at Harbour Field.

The Rye Harbour Signal Mast

The mast (sometimes referred to as a flagpole) has now been repaired and re-erected in its original position adjacent to the new Lifeboat House. Originally erected as a storm signal mast for shipping in the Bay before the days of radio communications, it is an important piece of local and national heritage, and the Parish Council is pleased to play a part in maintaining it in place. The mast was repaired following consultations with Rye Harbour residents, who favoured its retention. The work was carried out locally by Rock Channel Marine, who also supervised the work of re-erecting it.

Cllr Peter Turner

ickleshampc.org





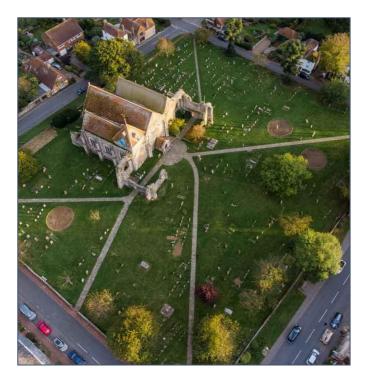
Imperial Centenary

At the Sunday service in St Thomas, a bell is struck during the communion prayer. It is inscribed with the words *HMS Glowworm 1915* and would have been used to sound the changes of duty watches onboard.

This ship, pictured below, was a river gunboat and, on 1st November 1921, she took her place in history. Berthed at Baja, on the Danube, south of Budapest, she embarked Karl, last Habsburg Emperor and King of Hungary, and the Empress Zita on the first stage of their journey into exile. One week later, they embarked in the cruiser *HMS Cardiff* on the Black Sea for their journey to Madeira.

Glowworm was broken up in Malta in 1927, so it is assumed that a scion of Empire acquired the bell as a souvenir prior to settling in Winchelsea and donating it to the church.





Churchyard Mini-Meadows

We have now completed all our tasks for Autumn and each circle will be known affectionately as Tom, Dick or Harriet and the small area near the ruins is Margot! This helps us to keep tabs on what is happening and being planted in each area.

And look at this marvellous photo taken from a drone by @ClearAirFlying of Winchelsea showing the circles so markedly. It's fantastic to get another perspective on what we are doing!

During October Tom (on the north side of the church next to the High Street), has been sown with a mix of grasses and blue themed meadow flowers and bulbs including Grape Hyacinth (Muscari armenicum), and Allium sphareocephalon.

Dick (with the gravestone in the centre), has a white meadow mix plus Crocus Snowbunting and wild carrot (Daucus carota). Harriet (nearest to German St.) has a yellow and white theme of meadow mix plus Birdsfoot Trefoil and Snake's Head Fritillary.

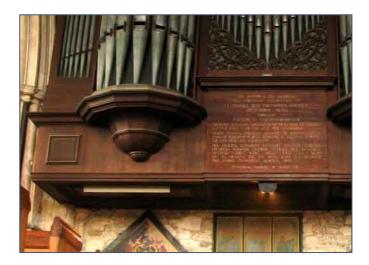
The lovely plant crooks have gone in around the edges and natural sisal rope attached (expertly spliced by Paul). The crooks are rusting nicely and the rope has tightened up as it has dampened. This has resulted in tension pulling the crooks inwards which may need adjustments (more work for Paul) before the winter sets in.

We have been visited by the Sussex Wildlife Trust, who spent nearly a whole day here. They were very positive and supportive about what we are doing. The mycologist on the team found some quite rare fungi in some areas of the churchyard and I will be bringing you up to date with that in the December edition. It's all very exciting!

Do have a look at what is happening on the soil surface when you pass by as there is already some germination.

To come: information boards.

Shirley Meyer



Friends of Winchelsea Church

The Friends held their delayed AGM on 30th October. Chairman Ben Chishick was able to report that, though the investment fund which underpins the charity's work had dipped at the start of the pandemic, its value was up by 9.3% by the end of 2020 and the Friends had been able to continue to make their monthly contribution towards the maintenance of the fabric.

The last major project was the very successful restoration of the organ in 2019. The organ celebrated its centenary this year and the hope is that the concert to mark the completion of the work, due to take place in May 2020, will be possible in 2022. Dr Peter King of Bath Abbey has indicated that he would still like to give the concert that he had originally planned.

Thanks were expressed to Ben for his continuing work as chairman and to treasurer, Stephen King, and secretary, Celia King and to all the trustees.

Marion Lovell has stepped down from the role of membership secretary and a volunteer to take on the job would be very welcome. Contact Ben or Celia to find out more about this. Their contact details are at the end of the magazine. Membership of the Friends costs \pounds 10 a year and your support is much appreciated.



'Land Gate Winchelsea' Eric Slater 1926

Winchelsea Archaeological Society

Saturday 27th November 11am to 12

Talk and discussion on future research - on Zoom or in the New Hall. After nearly four years work, we are in the last phase of a major collaboration with the National Trust, analysing 90 crates of pottery sherds from the Blackfriars Barn cellar. Outline proposals for a followon research programme will be presented and then thrown open for discussion.

Please contact Andrew at <u>andrewscottb@aol.com</u> or at 3 Hiham Green for details of how to access the meeting.

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



FOAM

I would like to thank all those members who attended Malcolm Pratt's talk on 9th October, 'Winchelsea, A Remarkable Story'. It was certainly very successful with at least 70 people attending. Malcolm was certainly very pleased with both the numbers and the reception he received and we received some £468 on the day.

As he said the town is solely responsible for maintenance of these ancient buildings and the Museum and so your contribution is vital the help the Corporation in their task. *Stuart Raine*

Forthcoming events are:-

FOAM Carols in the Court Hall - our thank you to the town, 6.30pm on Friday 17th December at the Court Hall to join together in the singing of Christmas Carols, accompanied by a free glass of wine. No booking required just please turn up and enjoy yourself.

FOAM Quiz on Saturday 18th February, again with emphasis on enjoyment rather than competition. Teams of up to six with food included and a bar. Further details will be advertised nearer the time.

I do hope you can join us for both events. With best wishes from the committee and with thanks for your continued support.

www.winchelsea-foam.org.uk



Guy Fawkes Society

After two years of non-activity due to the pandemic, Winchelsea Guy Fawkes Society hopes to get back to its fundraising activities in the New Year to enable us to fund a firework spectacular in November 2022.

To do this we need you to revive your membership and join in our up-and-coming events and activities.

So, sadly, no fireworks again this year, but watch this space for notice of our fundraising events, and make a date in your diary for the WGFS AGM on Saturday 12th February at 3pm in Winchelsea New Hall.

Thank you for your support. The WGFS committee.

Winchelsea Guy Fawkes Society



OUR SINGING GROUP IS BACK!

) 'TUNE-IN-VINCHELSEA'

Come and experience the joy of singing together!

Sessions led by well known tenor, Gary Marriott.

Build confidence, develop your voice and have fun in a friendly atmosphere.

Tuesdays 2pm-3pm

followed by tea/coffee

Winchelsea New Hall, Rectory Lane, TN36 4AA

Only £3 a week! Everybody welcome!

No auditions; previous experience not necessary. Contact 07941 458628 or email rroberts96@yahoo.co.uk or just turn up!



Carols Round The Town

13th and 15th December

Join us in singing Christmas Carols around Winchelsea. Last year we were limited to a maximum of six singers but we managed one very fruitful session before the restrictions were tightened even more and we had to abandon our efforts.

This year we hope we can resume normal service and that anyone who would like to join in can do so; all are welcome. It is a very sociable occasion and a great opportunity to meet people and sometimes their dogs too. We can also enjoy the Christmas Windows as we go around. Our carol singing is much appreciated by residents and all the money collected goes to *Shelter*.

The provisional dates are Monday 13th and Wednesday 15th December. We meet at the church porch at 6pm and usually finish about 7.30 - 8pm. Carol sheets are provided. Come with warm clothes, a torch and your enthusiasm.

If you would like any more information please contact Carol Scoines on 01797 222772



Hats for the Homeless

Shirley Meyer writes: I am very pleased to report that the many warm hats knitted last year by the wonderful ladies of Winchelsea, have now been accepted by Snowflake in Hastings and will be distributed amongst their guests. We had difficulty last year as organisations did not want to accept gifts of clothing because of Covid regulations. I am so relieved that all the effort has not gone to waste. Thank you once again knitters, give yourselves a pat on the back!

For those of you that have not heard of Snowflake, their aims are to provide a night shelter for genuinely homeless people who would otherwise be sleeping rough in Hastings and St Leonards during the extreme winter months: with respect and without discrimination, to engage church members and local people generally with some of the most vulnerable people in the town in line with Christian principles: to provide a warm bed, non-judgemental hospitality and engagement with willing Volunteers to facilitate wellbeing and positive self-esteem: to provide hot drinks, an evening meal and breakfast: in liaison with specialist agencies, encouragement in accessing relevant longer term solutions to individual housing and employment needs.

Should you be interested in voluntary work please contact them on via *snowflake-nightshelter.org.uk*



from

4pm

to

9.30pm

Please join us this year to light up your window and bring the community together over the Christmas period by adding a little festive light to the town

Saturday 11th to Friday 31st December

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For more information and to sign up please contact Chris Chappell Wren Cottage 07973 734367 chriswinchelsea@icloud.com





Christmas Windows

Thank you to those people who recently attended our first Annual General Meeting, and provided so many good ideas. As a result, this year the event will run from 11th to 31st December, daily, from 4pm to 9.30pm.

To remove any pressure, there will be no theme, no trail number, and no title, but there will be a trail and map to guide people round the town, so none of the windows are missed. All windows will be lit together from the start, if possible, with no staggered openings.

The windows can be as simple or as complicated as you like, that is your choice. This is not a competition, but simply an opportunity to take part in any way possible. The more who take part, the more effective will be the result. If you think your windows are too far back from the road, perhaps you could light a tree or shrub and still be part of the trail.

Please support us at the Winchelsea Christmas Fair in the New Hall on Saturday 13th November, where we will be selling tea towels featuring last year's Christmas Windows and a beautiful range of Christmas cards and craft items.

The team have also produced a Calendar for 2022. The theme is a celebration of Winchelsea's fantastic societies, groups and organisations. Each month we focus on a different group and highlight some of the amazing things they get up to. The calendar will be on sale at the Christmas Fair and afterwards in the Farm Kitchen, at £9.75. Profits will support our chosen charities: *Snowflake*, which concentrates on supporting the homeless, especially over the winter period, and St Thomas' Church, which again will provide a centrepiece for the event, but in a slightly different way.





Rye and District National Trust

Thursday 18th November

We continue our winter talks season with a presentation by Peter Mellor - French POWs at Sissinghurst Castle during the Seven Years War. The talk will focus on the role of Sissinghurst Castle during the Seven Years War (1756-63) when up to 3,000 French seamen, both Naval and from merchant vessels, were incarcerated and on the behaviour of the militia guarding them.

All talks start at 2pm at Brede Village Hall. Admission is £4 for members and £5 for visitors, this includes refreshments after the talk.

Thursday 16th December

Our usual Christmas Party with traditional fare and topical entertainment provided by Pete Allen - A History of Pantomime. This festive talk will reveal much of what goes on in a typical pantomime.

For details and Booking Forms contact Keith Sellens 07940 777250 *keithsellens93@gmail.com*

You can see more details of these events in our Newsletter at <u>nationaltrust.org.uk/features/rye-and-</u> <u>district-association</u>



Opera Concert at St Thomas'

Rye Lawn Tennis Club will be holding its annual opera concert in Winchelsea Church at 7pm on Saturday 4th December. Tickets are now on sale at £50 per head inclusive of drinks and programme. Please apply to *jackystace@jempsons.co.uk* and either pay by cheque to Rye Lawn Tennis Club, c/o John Jempson & Son Ltd, Slade Yard, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7DG or direct into the club's account with reference "concert": Sort code 40-23-18, Account number 12106485.

On this occasion we will once again be entertained by current members of the Royal Opera House Jette Parker Young Artists and those scheduled to appear are as follows: April Koyejo-Audiger British soprano, Kseniia Nikolaieva Ukrainian mezzo, Andres Presno Uruguayan tenor, Yuriy Yurchuk Ukrainian baritone, Ed Whitehead British/Russian pianist and conductor

Any profits will go towards the Rye Lawn Tennis Club Appeal Fund to help pay for additional tennis and padel courts. Please note that the club has Community Amateur Sports Club charitable status which means it is non-profit making and open to all. I hope you will be able to join us for another exciting international evening. Jonathan Jempson Chairman Rye LTC.



The Traditions of Christmas A Musical Celebration by Candlelight

Pegasus Chamber Choir

Ann Rachlin commère





St Thomas' Church Winchelsea TN36 4EB Saturday 18th December at 4pm

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

> **£16** free for under 18s

Winchelsea

Arts

winchelsea-arts.org.uk



James Payne

James died on 3rd October at the age of 81. He lived in Oxfordshire until 2012 when he and Judith moved to Winchelsea. After a career as an auctioneer, James devoted himself to community activities, sorting and valuing donations to St Michael's Hospice and ensuring they were sold for the best price.

He served as churchwarden at Crowl in Oxfordshire and was electoral roll officer at St Thomas'. He took on the task of keeping the Winchelsea churchyard wall weedfree, sang in the choir, and was a museum volunteer. James enjoyed sailing and was a keen philatelist.

Speaking at his funeral, James' oldest friend recalled his commanding 'auctioneer's voice' and celebrated his warm and characteristic chuckle and his ability to engage almost anybody in friendly conversation.

Judith writes: I would like to thank everyone for their kind words of condolence and offers of support in the

numerous cards and letters I received following the loss of James. The children and I got the impression that he was acknowledged to be quite a character and will be missed by the whole community, not just family. How fortunate I am that we chose to settle in Winchelsea.

To read the tribute given at St Thomas' on 22nd October, *click here*



David and Margaret Bowen

My parents, David and Margaret Bowen, moved to Winchelsea in 1971 and lived at "Sharon" (now Tanners Plat) in Mill Road until their deaths in 1992 and 1998 respectively. They are buried in Winchelsea churchyard.

I am writing a short history of their lives and I am looking for any reminiscences from those Winchelsea residents who remember them. If anyone has any anecdotes and memories of my parents' time in Winchelsea (good or bad!!), I would be extremely pleased to receive them, by email to <u>familybowen@btinternet.com</u>. Photos would also be gratefully received.

Richard Bowen



Henry Dormer

Henry Dormer died on 9th October. Born in Suffolk in 1924, he served in the Royal Artillery during the War, fighting in France and Germany and taking part in the liberation of Belsen. When the War ended, he continued to serve as a professional soldier, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

After spending the final decade of his working life as a civil servant in Whitehall, Henry moved with Sue to Winchelsea. He became a freeman of the town in 1990 and served two terms as mayor, from 1995 to 1997, presiding over the celebrations for the 700th anniversary of the Winchelsea mayoralty.

Henry was involved in many aspects of local life. He chaired the New Hall committee and took great delight in Winchelsea Singers both as a performer and in writing material for their famous fun evenings.

Latterly, Henry and Sue moved to Sarre in Kent, but he wanted Winchelsea to be his final resting place, a wish fulfilled following his funeral at St Thomas' on 26th October.



Rye Food Bank

The next Winchelsea collection date is Tuesday 16th November.

If you would like to donate food items the Rye Foodbank, please give Cam 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 November 2021

Tuesday 2nd	Mothers' Prayers - 10am	
Saturday 6th	Church Market - 10.30 till 12 Residents' Association AGM - New Hall - 11.30am	
Sunday 7th 3rd Sunday before Advent	9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham 11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'	
Wednesday 10th	Second Wednesday talk - New Hall - 2.30pm	
Thursday 11th	Act of Remembrance at Winchelsea War Memorial - 11am	
Saturday 13th	PCC Meeting Christmas Fair - New Hall - 11am - 3pm Winchelsea Arts Concert - St Thomas' - 7.30pm	
Sunday 14th 2nd Sunday before Advent	9.30am: Said Eucharist at St Thomas' 11am: Act of Remembrance at Winchelsea War Memorial followed by a Service of Remembrance at St Thomas'	
Friday 19th	Literary Society - New Hall - 7pm for 7.30	
Saturday 20th	Something Else - New Hall - 7pm	
Sunday 21st Sunday before Advent	9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham 11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'	
Friday 26th	Fellowship Lunch - WB Community Hall	
Saturday 27th	Winchelsea Archaeological Society meeting - 11am	
Sunday 28th Advent Sunday	9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham 11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'	
Sat 4th Dec	Church Market - 10.30 till 12 Opera Concert - St Thomas' 7pm	
Sun 5th Dec Advent 2	9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham 11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'	

Further ahead

Sat 11th Dec	Christmas Windows - until 31st
Mon 13th & Weds 15th Dec	Carols Round the Town
	FOAM Carols in the Court Hall
Sat 18th Dec	Winchelsea Arts Concert
Sun 19th Dec	Nine Lessons and Carols
Sat 22nd Jan	Garden Society Winter Lecture



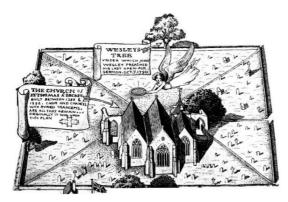
Please send copy for the December Magazine to <u>ryeview@gmail.com</u> before Tuesday 30th November

For Winchelsea Beach information go to winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk

> For Winchelsea information go to <u>winchelsea.com</u>

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

For weekly news from the local area go to <u>ryenews.org.uk</u>



Rector of Winchelsea and Icklesham

The Revd Jonathan Meyer The Rectory, St Thomas Street, Winchelsea TN36 4EB 01797 226254 <u>revdjonathan@btinternet.com</u> The Rector's day off is Monday

Churchwardens

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

PCC Secretary

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Parish Treasurer Vacancy

Gift Aid

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St Thomas' Choir

Marion Lovell 7 Oast House Field, Icklesham TN36 4BP 01424 815247 <u>marion@abingworth.plus.com</u>

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St Richard's Secretary

Pamela Jefferies 01797 222904

St Richard's Treasurer

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