WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

2nd December 2021





Rye Food Bank Christmas Appeal

The next Winchelsea collection date is Tuesday 14th December. This is a week earlier than usual as the Food Bank needs more time to prepare and distribute special Christmas food parcels to some 30 families that they currently support. If you would like to donate to the Rye Food Bank, please give Cam a ring, so that he can co-ordinate pick up from your doorstep.

Donald Cameron-Clarke 01797 226414

The food bank is making a special appeal for gifts and donations for Christmas. For more information and to see the list of food donations they are most in need of, go to ryenews.org.uk/news/food-bank-seeks-help

Monetary donations can be sent to Rye Foodbank at Barclays Bank - sort code 20-54-25 - account number 83501116; through the *Jempson Foundation*; or cheques to Rye Foodbank c/o 24 North Salts, Rye. If you donate via the Jempson Foundation and are a taxpayer, gift aid can be applied, If you make a bank transfer, please do send a message (via *ryefoodbank@gmail.com*) so they know who it is from and can send a receipt, if required.



Church Market

There will be a Church Market at St Thomas' on Saturday 4th December - 10.30am till 12 - but there won't be one in January as the first Saturday of the month falls on New Year's Day.

Decorative pots of bulbs will be on sale - hyacinths and muscari.

As always, gifts of home produce to sell for church funds are gratefully received.

The book stall will be open with plenty of material not on display before - but for the time being we have quite a backlog from the months when markets weren't possible, so are not taking in new stock.

The November Market raised £348. Thank you for your support.



Reflections from the Rectory

As we draw towards the end of November, I sit down to write this reflection having attended the induction of the new Rector of Rye in St Mary's last night. It is always a pleasure to be included in such special services when the Bishop and Archdeacon licence and induct a new priest into the cure of souls.

The Archdeacon literally leads the priest to his stall. It is traditional that the first duty for the new rector is to give out notices. As if the ritual of conveying information, sometimes tedious, is the key role of the priest. The Revd Paul White ignored protocol and took the opportunity to tweet a photograph of himself and his new congregation as his first act as the new rector.

He also took the opportunity to remind us that advent begins on 28th November - and as I often say to the school Advent reminds of adventures - it is a time for looking forward it is a time to discern what is new.

Advent like Lent is always a time for re-examination, reassessing and for looking to the future with a spirit of

hope. In our own benefice there are still some unanswered questions for the future.

It is likely that I will be asked to become Priest-in-Charge for Pett and although this will give new challenges to me and to the wider benefice I think it can also be a time for opportunity. But perhaps the most pressing of the challenges will be the future of the church of St Richard's at Winchelsea Beach.

It was reported in the last edition that it was likely that the PCC would proceed with plans to close the church. Following that meeting and the meeting at the end of last month in the community hall at Winchelsea Beach; the situation has not changed.

With regret we are making plans as to how we might move forward. There are of course many practical questions and it will be some time before any clarity emerges what can be done with the building itself. But perhaps more pressing and certainly more important is how we continue to maintain a Christian presence in Winchelsea Beach.

For my second Easter in the benefice I organised a dawn service of communion on the beach at 5:45am. Almost 40 people attended, at least half were not regular worshippers. Even though people are reluctant to gather in churches there is clearly a spiritual need and a thirst for the presence of God. It is perhaps too early to outline specific initiatives.

However if our experience of services on the beach tells us anything it is that the church as a building is not the most important thing in Christian worship and sometimes it can even be a hindrance.

I very much hope that as the future unfolds we will be able to establish other ways of connecting with the community at Winchelsea Beach and offering some form of meaning and spiritual nourishment that is rooted in our Christian faith.

Expressing our faith and bringing it to others is always a challenge. Advent is a time to think about those challenges and to look forward in hope. I pray that we

will all consider what we can do and that as the coming year unfolds, the Lord will travel with us to guide, uphold and sustain in local and personal challenges. By the time this is published there will still be 24 days of Advent before we celebrate the promise of God's presence among us. When Christmas does arrive I wish you every blessing.

Jonathan

Evening Prayer during Advent

A Simple Service of Evening Prayer for Advent will take place on Zoom, on Thursday 2nd December, Thursday 9th December and Thursday 16th December at 6pm.

Zoom is being used not out of necessity but simply because for many people coming out in the dark on a cold night presents a risk. If you would like join please email the Rector who then send out a link before the service: revdjonathan@btinternet.com

Servers

We have a dedicated team of altar servers at St Thomas for our Sunday services at 11:00am. They help with incense, to prepare the altar and serve the presiding priest. If you are interested in becoming a server, please contact the Rector - 01797 226254



Go to winchelsea-arts.org.uk to book tickets

Click here to see the concert programme



Christmas Services at St Thomas'

Sunday 19th December 6pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve 4pm **Crib Service** 11.30pm **Midnight Mass**

Christmas Day
11am
Parish Communion
Common Worship
Families and children welcome

Sunday 26th December
Benefice Service
11am
Holy Communion
Book of Common Prayer - said



A tile from St Giles'

Digging in her garden in St Giles' Close, Linda McCarthy unearthed a medieval tile, now deposited in the Museum. Expert opinion says it dates from the thirteenth or fourteenth century and was probably made by a pottery in Rye.

The houses in the Close were built in the 1970s in the grounds of the 1849 Rectory which before that were the site of St Giles' Church, one of the three medieval churches of Winchelsea.

St Giles' was already derelict by Tudor times, when some of the stone went to Rye to reinforce the town walls. The remainder was sold off by rector, Drake Hollingberry, in the late eighteenth century and some of it was used to build the short-lived harbour at Winchelsea Beach.

Remarkably, no archaeology was done in the 1970s, though some tiles - and bones - were found. The digging of foundations for the houses confirmed that the church was on the side of the site nearest Hogtrough Lane. The gnarled hand in the photo is not medieval. It belongs to your editor.



Winchelsea New Hall

As we move towards the end of another varied and eventful year, I'd like to thank everybody who has used and supported the New Hall in any way. Without you there would be no reason to be here. Thank you.

November has proven to be a busy month. Many clubs, classes, activities, and private functions take place at the hall every month, but, to indicate the diverse range of interests the people in the town have, I'd like to focus in on three events that have taken place.

The first is the annual Christmas Crafts Fair, which proved to be one of the most successful yet. The hall looked magnificent, with an array of lights, trees and bunting, many lent by the people of Winchelsea. It was filled with quality craft stalls, entertainment, sumptuous refreshments, and very much appreciated by a continuous flow of people to the event from beginning to end.

The second is a brand new event for the New Hall, which proved to be a sell-out. The previous Chair, and still very active member of the New Hall Management Committee, attended the event and reported enthusiastically:- "Things were really buzzing in the New Hall on Saturday night 20th November, when talented local band "Something Else" made good its promise to Rock around the Clock. And so we did, to

favourites such as Del Shannon's Runaway, Jailhouse Rock, and Great Balls of Fire. The floor was packed with Rock 'n Rollers from start to finish, so far as Social Distancing would allow. A very enjoyable evening! They may tell you Rock 'n Roll is dead, but we heard Something Else".

Finally, having been postponed last winter due to Covid, a prestigious event organised by the Winchelsea Literary Society took place in November. As part of the Society's varied programme of talks, Sir Anthony Seldon gave an extremely successful and entertaining talk on "Prime Ministers". We were told, "The Literary Society thought the New Hall was a perfect venue for the event and, with masks, and the cross ventilation from the new windows, we had the confidence to proceed. Sixty two attended and it was a wonderful event."

Please go to the town website: <u>winchelsea.com/new-hall</u> to see the many varied ways people find to use the hall.

The New Hall is part of the Winchelsea Calendar on sale in the Farm Kitchen shop, celebrating the clubs and societies of Winchelsea. Do pop in and buy yours, all profits will go to two local charities.

Remember please, Covid is still a threat and still with us. We will continue to follow our programme of events, in accordance with Government guidelines. Hall users, please wear masks where advised to do so, sanitise your hands regularly, still be conscious of social distancing, and keep the hall well ventilated by opening the top of the sash windows creating a cross ventilation without direct drafts on to people.

Thank you all from the New Hall Management Committee. Take care, keep safe, and see you soon.

John Davidson



A most successful Christmas Fair

On Saturday 13th November the annual Christmas Fair was held at the New Hall. A massive thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event by starting their Christmas shopping early.

The Christmas Fair is one of two annual fundraisers for the New Hall. This year, as in 2020, we are committed to donating 20% of our profits to the Rye Food Bank. Donations are still being received, but at the time of writing, we are delighted to say we have raised at least £1,839 for the New Hall's accessible toilet project and £613 for the Rye Food Bank.

To compensate for a disappointing Christmas last year we went to town decorating the hall with a mass of fairy lights, bunting (hand made by volunteers...thank you) and Christmas trees. Thank you to everyone who lent us your Christmas lights and helped us decorate the hall! We hope you agree the end result was spectacular.

A further thank you needs to go to the wonderful array of different stall holders who make the event such a success, many have already reserved their places again for next year.

We are so grateful to all those who donated raffle and tombola prizes including Fairlight Hall, Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, Rye Retreat and Winchelsea Farm Kitchen and so many friends and neighbours in the town. And of course a big thank you to everyone who supported us by buying tickets.

It really was a lovely Christmassy community event, aided by beautiful carol singing from the pupils of St Thomas' School and was a fantastic fundraiser for the New Hall and local charities.

Thank you Winchelsea for supporting us in such an amazing fashion! *Hilary, Rosemarie, Heidi, Wendy, Faith, Jo and Ali - the Christmas Fair Committee.*





Christmas Windows - not long now!

From Saturday 11th December to New Year's Eve, almost 100 Winchelsea households and businesses will be adding an extra festive sparkle to our town by lighting their windows and gardens. Windows will all be lit from 4pm to 9.30 each evening.

Our aim is to come together as a community and raise some money for our church and a local charity, *Snowflake* night shelter, who support the homeless in Hastings and St Leonards during the winter months.

One of the ways you can support these charities is by purchasing some of the lovely crafts, cards, tea towels and calendars we have produced. The tea towels feature some of last year's windows, and the calendar celebrates some of the wonderful societies and groups we have in the town. Everything is available to purchase in the shop, [the display is in the room on the left].

This year's trail guide is also available in both the shop and the pub, thanks to our sponsors it is free, but donations will of course be most welcome and go directly to our charities.

Best wishes from the Winchelsea Christmas Windows Group.

snowflake-nightshelter.org.uk



Carols at Wesley's Chapel

Winchelsea Methodist Chapel warmly invite you to join them for a special 'Christmas Carols and Reflections' on Saturday 4th December at 11am.

This will be led by the Revd Philip Wagstaff, Superintendent Minister in the Hastings, Bexhill and Rye Methodist Circuit.

All are most welcome to join with us, and if you would like us to sing a favourite carol just call me on 01424 216456 and it will be included.

The Chapel is looking very smart as we have obtained some good chairs from our Rye Methodist Church that they did not require. Do come and have a comfortable seat for the celebration!

Barry Turnwell, Publicity Officer.

winchelseachapel.org



Music for Christmas

The Occasional Consort present Music for Christmas at St Thomas' Church on Saturday 11th December at 7pm.

Their leader is Anne Whiteman, with accompanists Shirley Carey and Duncan Reid.

Tickets cost £12 (including a glass of wine) and are available at the door.





Winchelsea Beach Community Association

Saturday 11th December at the Community Hall Coffee Morning and Stalls 10.30 - 12.30 Ring Jacky 07947 618989

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

winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk



Carols Around The Town

Following the notice in last November's Parish Magazine I can now confirm that Carols Around the Town will take place on Monday 13th and Wednesday 15th December and you are welcome to join us.

We meet at the church porch at 6pm and finish between 7.30 and 8pm. Carols sheets are provided but please remember to bring a torch.

All the proceeds go to *Shelter*, the charity for homeless people.

Carol Scoines 01797 222772

england.shelter.org.uk



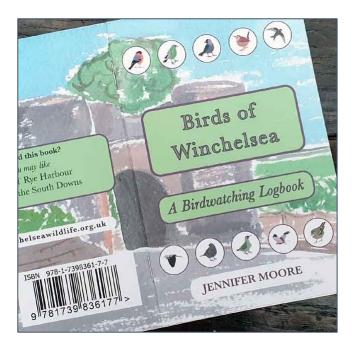
FOAM Carols

The Friends of the Ancient Monuments warmly invite you to come and sing Christmas carols on Friday 17th December at 6.30pm for 7.

We have made some important changes to help keep everyone safe. Firstly, we have moved the venue to the New Hall and secondly we have made the event ticketed and are limiting numbers to 50 to make sure there's plenty of room.

Please register here to secure your place: <u>ticketsource.co.uk/foam</u>

We hope to see as many of you as we can on the night for a festive evening with many of our favourite carols and some wine too. No charge, but donations are welcome.



Winchelsea Wildlife

Over the last few years Winchelsea has seen a number of projects aimed at improving the local environment. Residents have been involved with projects to install nest boxes for swifts, weekly moth trapping sessions and planting wildflower mini-meadows in the churchyard.

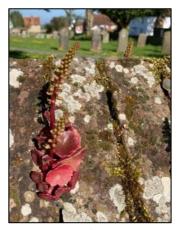
These projects have demonstrated a widespread enthusiasm for wildlife projects in Winchelsea and this interest inspired Paul Youlten, Jim Kay, Cheryl Fraser-Sampson and Berni Scott to launch Winchelsea Wildlife, a new group that hopes to engage in practical efforts to improve things for nature in and around the town.

The new group is ambitious, one idea is to apply for a grant from the Little Cheyne Court Wind Farm Community Fund for money convert the walled field between Monks' Walk and the A259 and into a large wildflower meadow.

Paul says: "We live in a very beautiful place and much of that beauty depends on a diverse and fragile network of interdependent plants and animals. I hope that the Winchelsea Wildlife group will enable and encourage people to get involved with projects that help to protect and nurture everything from the earthworms, microbes and fungi that live in the soil to the buzzards that soar over the town in the summer."

The new group is raising money by selling a birdwatching logbook called "Birds of Winchelsea". Featuring 22 birds commonly seen in the town, it is available for £5 from Paul at Periteau House or from the Farm Kitchen Shop on the High Street.

The co-founders will hold a meeting in the new year to officially launch the group and start work on a plan for 2022.



Navelwort



Crimson Waxcap



Golden Waxcap



Pink Ballerina Waxcap



Waxcap Chlorophana (?)

Pink Ballerinas in the Churchyard

In late October we had a visit from the Sussex Wildlife Trust who had heard about the goings on in St Thomas's churchyard. Our whole package of mini meadows, wild bees and encouraging the swifts scored highly. The visit was fascinating as it gave us new knowledge of the local flora, fauna and fungi.

We know that we already have one rare species of plant in Winchelsea, the navelwort, but to find out that we also have very rare species of fungi, the pink ballerina waxcap, is fantastic.

They are toadstools (of the genus Hygrocybe) with a slimy damp appearance which are found mainly in ancient grassland such as churchyards and lawns around historic houses. Any old turf will not do for the waxcap, it must be well mown or grazed and unimproved. Fact: 50% of Europe's ballerina waxcaps are found in the UK.

The Trust's mycologist alerted us to several locations within the churchyard where a variety of waxcaps can be seen. All the fungi photographed here were in our churchyard. Look at the variety of colours!

Winter will be a quiet time with not much appearing to happen in the circles. We will use the time to try and build a good database of species and work towards the provision of information boards for the meadow areas.

Shirley Meyer (for the Churchyard sub-committee biodiversity group)



Icklesham Parish Council

Meetings in December

Monday 13th. Planning Committee in the Court Hall at 6.15pm, followed by a closed budget meeting.

Allotments

The Allotment Committee met towards the end of November. Progress was made on updating the waiting list and starting the process of reviewing the condition of plots. There are vacant plots that need some work before they can be re-let, and this should happen in time for them to be let early in the new year. Our allotment year starts at the end of March.

Winchelsea Beach sewerage problems

It will not be possible to get all the parties together before the New Year. I currently anticipate a meeting in February.

Police Focus Meeting. This is a meeting held with representatives from the Police and Crime Commissioners Office and Sussex Police to discuss policing priorities. The meeting is facilitated through the East Sussex Association of Local Councils and invitations go out to all the Parish and Town Councils in Rother District. Similar meetings are held in Lewes and Wealden Districts. I have no doubt they also take place in West Sussex.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide some guidance of the policing issues that concern the residents of Rother District. At the end of the meeting, I received a list of ten policing priorities and was asked to rank them and return my ranking within 24 hours. It would have been helpful if the list had been circulated prior to the meeting.

A hurried consultation with fellow Councillors was not conclusive as less than 50% responded in the time frame. However, based on the responses received and the comments made to me direct, I submitted the following as the top four priorities.

1, Visible neighbourhood policing and better engagement; 2, Helping women and girls feel safer in public places; 3, Domestic abuse; 4, Road safety – tackling speeding and drink/drug driving

The other priorities in the list were: rape and sexual assaults; tackling serious organised crime, county lines, terror threats; rural crime; investment in new tech to improve reporting & investigations; fraud and cyberenabled (online) crime; shoplifting and business crime

I found it very difficult to rank some of the priorities as we get very little information as to how they impact on the Parish.

It also gave me an appreciation of just how difficult a task the PCC and the Chief Constable have in trying to decide how best to utilize their limited resources.

One thing I did learn and that is that in some parts of the district, there is a very good working relationship between the Parish and Town Councils and the PCSO teams covering their area. Not so in Icklesham, nor I gather from the Mayor's comments, in Rye. Hopefully that will change. The issue was noted by the Police Inspector for the Rother area.

Notwithstanding that, it was made clear at the meeting that there is real concern in the corridors of power that the lack of visibility is a major factor in the low level of public confidence in policing across the UK.

I took the opportunity to ask if an Officer could occasionally travel on the bus services that carry school children in and out of Rye. I regularly receive complaints about the appalling behaviour and how unpleasant it is when residents find they need to use those buses.

East Sussex ALC. AGM and Conference

Two things came out of the conference of interest to the Parish. East Sussex Highways are seeking to improve their communications with both Parish and Town Councils and with the public.

They accepted the point that quoting case numbers in themselves was not helpful when responding to reports of highway defects. Most people raising a complaint remembered the location rather than the case number. Councils that centralize their complaints about highway matters often reported multiple issues across their parish, so case numbers alone were meaningless.

The Police reported that they were reviewing their approach to speeding issues and an update on a different approach will be available if the report is accepted. They did confirm that having data from traffic data recorders such as the Black Cat was helpful to them in identifying problem areas and for making a case to highways that an engineering solution was required, to reduce speeding. Speeding enforcement rarely brings any long-term benefits.

They also confirmed that 20 mph speed limits are enforceable in law. Police forces around the country just opt not to do so. There is one force that has broken the mould and stated that it will enforce them.

Cllr Peter Turner

ickleshampc@hotmail.co.uk

ickleshampc.org



Winchelsea Residents' AGM

Winchelsea Residents Association held its initial General Members Meeting on 6th November, when some 80 members attended, with numerous apologies caused in particular by concerns about Covid.

There are now 147 members of the WRA and all residents of the town who have not yet registered to join are very welcome to do so by emailing their name and address to info@winchelseaRA.com

At the Members Meeting ten committee members were elected, following which the Committee has met and appointed the following officers: Co-chairs: Jane Taylor and Paul Veys; Vice Chair: John Clarke; Secretary: Brian Leonard; Treasurer: Linda Bass; Membership: Ali Casey and Paul Veys. Other members of the Committee are: Richard Plumb, Laurie Rutman, Sarah Andrews and Catherine Owens

Members continued discussion about the issues of significance for the town which the association can research and seek to deal with, in collaboration and cooperation with other bodies. This work will range from responses to current pressing problems to forward looking thinking and planning in relation to trends and

developments which are likely to affect the town and the interests of everyone who lives here.

A report has been sent to members about the organisation and the plans now underway for the association. Information about meetings, and about how the association is working on issues identified by members will also be included on the new WRA website winchelseaRA.com which will be launched soon.

Any enquiries about the WRA can also be sent to info@winchelseaRA.com

Jane Taylor, Paul Veys, Co-Chairs





Conservation Society

A group of Conservation Society members visited Knole in September. This visit was originally planned in 2019, so we were a long time salivating at the prospect of seeing the results of a massive Conservation project involving the repair of acres of roofs, the actual structure of the house itself, the furniture of the State rooms and the gardens.

The National Trust has invested many millions of pounds in this amazing stately home over the last decade, rescuing it from dereliction. The house, in a small part of which the Sackville family still live, is now fully open to visitors. Fascinating was the fact that this enormous property has remained largely unaltered since the 17th century.

The enormous house is in fact a time capsule and it houses the largest intact 17th century Stuart furniture collection in the world. As we were guided round the Attics in two separate groups, we were shown the wealth of artefacts unearthed during Conservation of

this area. Graffiti through the centuries were examined and recorded. Letters and other artefacts found under the floorboards are being preserved and catalogued and we were able to see many of these finds. All our guides were enthusiastic and well informed making this specific tour such an interesting experience. In fact, they were so helpful that we invited them to come to Winchelsea for a cellar tour next year for a fee of course.

One of the guides for the Attic tour was the well-known National Trust archaeologist Natalie Cohen. (She has been to Winchelsea several times). In addition, many managed to fit in a fascinating visit to the conservation studio, where all sorts of objects from the house are actively being restored.



Our next trip in 2022 may be a visit to Chatham Naval Dockyard to see the results of more recent conservation work and upgrading of exhibition areas. Everyone is welcome, so do come along.



Heroes, Heretics and Chocolate Brownies

The November Second Wednesday Society afternoon fell the day before Armistice Day. It was therefore entirely appropriate that our Speaker was Major Imogen Corrigan. After having spent twenty years in the army, she followed her lifelong passion and became an Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Historian. Her knowledge spans a thousand years of History from Britain to the Middle East.

On this particular afternoon, we were transported to France. As many of us know, it is a Country that has played such a large part in Winchelsea's long history. The grid pattern of our town is taken from those of Gascony and our cellars were filled with the wines of Bordeaux. Huguenots weavers sort refuge and brought their industry here, while Martello Towers and the Royal Military Canal were built to defend us from her.

Some of you told me that tales of The Cathars brought back memories of an 80s TV series "Gnostics" with Brian Blessed, others that they'd visited the Cathar Castles of Southern France or remembered Melvyn Bragg discussing them on Radio 4. Imogen recounted the history and ultimate demise of this strict Christian sect. Deeply entwined in the population, they inspired powerful local support. Celibate vegetarians, they also had the very modern belief in the equality of and ministry by women. This contradicted the vision that Pope Innocent Ill had to standardise the practices and doctrine of the Church.

And so ensued 300 years of European Crusades and Inquisition, which were marked by extraordinary violence and heroism; we were treated to tales of heresies, sieges, warrior monks, book burnings and torture. 600 years later, all that remains, apart from some ruins and the very detailed records made by their persecutors, is a marketing campaign to encourage tourists to visit "Cathar County"...

As a Society we are grateful that so many of you feel secure enough to attend our live meetings. Our Social Distancing protocols will therefore continue into December. This doesn't of course stop us from having fun, on the contrary it enables us to gather safely to enjoy our truly Live Christmas Event.

We want to end the year on a happy note, so we have invited back Peter Willson on 8th December. Peter is a Jazz Pianist and Musical Theatre Director and his set, "Greetings Pop Pickers", is a brief history of Pop Music from the 50s to the present day.

So whether you have the voice of an Angel, or the heavens open if you so much as sing Happy Birthday, like me, you will be pleased to know that the singer "The Fabulous Linda Francis", as he describes her, will also be accompanying us on this musical journey.

As an extra treat, we will be holding our AGM from 2.00pm, washed down with Mulled Wine. Our Christmas Tea will be served as Peter answers your many questions.

On behalf of the entire SWS Committee, I'd like to wish you all Peace, Joy and Health this Holiday Season.

Natasha Robinson

Winchelsea 2nd Wednesday Society



Peter Willson presents a musical event with a difference, preceded by the AGM at 2pm with a glass of mulled wine

8th December in the New Hall

The talk and music start at 2:30pm with tea, sandwiches and mince pies after. Entry for everyone is free, homemade tea £1

2ndWeds@gmail.com



With Great Pleasure

Winchelsea Literary Society's December meeting will feature readings chosen by Sue and Tony Moore. Mulled wine and mince pies. Friday 10th, Winchelsea New Hall at 7pm for 7.30.

On 21st January there will be a members' evening - *Poems by Kipling* - readings led by Jonty Driver. Members are invited to bring along their favourite poems or simply listen and enjoy.

winlitsoc@gmail.com

winlitsoc.blogspot.com



Rye and District National Trust 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 *keithsellens* 93@gmail.com

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



Garden Society Winter Lecture

Garden Society will be holding its Winter Lecture at 2.30pm on Saturday 22nd January in the New Hall.

This season's speaker is Steve Edney, Chelsea gold-medal-winner and, until 2020, head gardener at *The Salutation* in Sandwich. He is now in charge of the gardens at Canterbury Cathedral.



Poppy Appeal 2021

Although subject to audit and not including Gift Aid, a little over £2,500 was raised, compared with a little over £2,100 last year. There was, of course, no church service in 2020, so the figures are not strictly comparable, but this still represents an excellent effort in Winchelsea and Winchelsea Beach. Thank you very much.

The Royal British Legion will be immensely grateful to all those who supported and helped out with this year's appeal. This appreciation extends to all those who donated, to those who hosted a collection box and to those who took part in the Acts of Remembrance and wreath laying at the War Memorial, as well as the Service of Remembrance.

John Rodley, Local Appeal Organiser

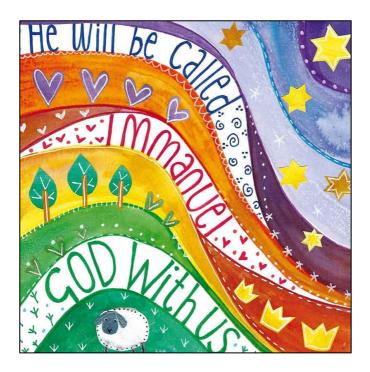


Wine Society

The Society has had a disappointing first year, with several events having to be cancelled. Nevertheless, many ideas have formed and contacts have been made and, as we emerge from winter 2022, we shall renew a programme covering a tastings, visits to and discussions with local vineyards, speakers, exploration of more ambitious initiatives, including the possibilities for a modest Winchelsea Wine Festival; plus, some just plain get-togethers.

Talking of which, some members are gathering in the New Inn on 7th December at 6.30, very informally. All members and non-members interested in the society are welcome to join us.

Brian Leonard



Prayer Partners

What with one thing and another, circumstances have conspired against us — mea culpa. It has not been possible to have the papers available for you to fill in to take part in the Prayer Partner Scheme, ready for Advent Sunday.

In consultation with Jonathan, we are going to exchange papers on Epiphany Sunday, 9th January. So please would you send a Christmas card to your present Prayer Partner, signed as usual.

I will ensure that all current members get their papers in good time. Meanwhile, if anyone else would like to join please let me know. If you are new in the parish and don't know what it is about, have a word and I will explain it to you. It is a great comfort to those who belong, to know that someone is praying for you.

Marion Lovell



Mothers' Prayers

Our next meeting in on Tuesday 7th December at 'Dabchick', Morlais Place at 10.00. All mothers welcome. The meeting for January will be on Tuesday 4th January. Venue to be arranged.

Fellowship Lunch

We had a very successful lunch this month which everyone enjoyed. Our next lunch will be on 28th January at 12.30 for 1pm in Winchelsea Beach Village Hall. Anyone can come, there is no charge for the meal but donations are invited and we have to know who is coming for catering purposes.

Please ring Mary Parker on 07927 107678 or 01797 229798 to book or for more information. The team would like to thank everyone for coming and we wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Mary Parker



Rescue Boat

And here we go into the final part of 2021. Here at Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat we hope that all in Winchelsea Parish are keeping well as we head into the festive season. So what's been happening, as our year winds down?

Our boathouse has been busy with visitors and events, including a visit from Andrew Blackman, Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex (pictured). His visit involved a tour of the boathouse and chat with our volunteers about our work, plus the official inauguration of our refurbished launch and recovery vehicle which is now at the centre of all of our beach-based rescues, training and activities.

Kit and Jan McLean of Elm Tree Boot Sale recently donated £1000 to our charity, to be used towards replacements and upgrades for boat equipment. We're very grateful to Kit and Jan for supporting local community charities and projects, by donating monies raised by boot sale parking fee.

We've had some success with grant seeking and have gladly received £2,500 from Little Cheyne Court Wind Farm / Sussex Community Foundation. This grant will

help fund ongoing training for our beach, base and boat volunteers.

Isaac, one of our helm-in-training volunteers has passed his onboard assessment by our crew leaders and has been made up to Helm for our Pulfer boat. Thanks to the LCCWF grant, three other volunteers have taken up helm training and have passed the initial Level 2 RYA powerboat course stage.

Our 2022 Calendar has now been published and calendars presented to our photo competition winners, whose fantastic photos make up our calendar. For the first time, we're extending our festive fundraising with our own Christmas cards for sale.

Our final Facebook fundraiser auction of 2021 will end on Sunday 5th December. We won't be running an auction in January, but will restart again in February, so please continue to support us with donated items to sell and by joining in with bids. Thanks to everyone who has been supporting this.

With the days so short and the weather changing into winter-mode, beach safety remains an important part of our work. Please be vigilant about weather warnings, seasonal tides and currents and stay mindful of the dangers at both the top and bottom of local cliffs, due to the continued rockfalls all along the local coastline.

To round up, we would like to offer a huge thank you to the residents and parish council of Winchelsea Parish, including all our supporters at the Co-op in Winchelsea Beach, for your continued support of our independent rescue charity this year. This support has made a huge difference to us and is appreciated by all of our volunteers, committee and trustees. We'd also like to wish everyone a very happy festive period and all the very best for 2022.

So until next year, please stay safe, take care and be beach aware. To keep in touch and to purchase our merchandise, please check out our website https://plirb.com or our social media: Twitter @PLIRBRescue; Facebook @PettLevelRescueBoat and Instagram @pettlevelindyrescueboat.



Bad Bangs

A Winchelsea resident writes: This image shows the remnants of rockets set off, somewhere in the town, around 5.45pm on Saturday 6th November.

The rockets were excessively loud when they exploded, with some landing a few metres from a house in the town and one being very close to someone walking past. No warning was given to residents.

Spare a thought for pets and their owners, some of whom were alarmed and upset by these explosions. Would it not be reasonable in future, to publicise a warning, simply as a kindness to this community?

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

Invite you to join us for The Annual FOAM Quiz

On Saturday 19th February 2022 New Hall 6.30pm for 7pm start



£15 pp including a ploughman's supper Pay bar

Maximum 6 persons per team Individuals welcome, with teams also made up on the night

Advance bookings essential, please contact:

Stuart Raine 01797 222772 email stuartraine@btinternet.com

Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar

December 2021

Saturday 4th Church Market - 10.30 till 12

Carols and Reflections - Wesley's Chapel - 10.30am Rye Tennis Club Opera Concert - St Thomas'

Sunday 5th 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham

Advent 2 11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'

Tuesday 7th Mothers' Prayers - 10am

Wednesday 8th Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30pm

Friday 10th Literary Society - New Hall - 7pm for 7.30

Saturday 11th Coffee Morning and Stalls - WB Community Hall - 10.30-12.30

Occasional Consort - St Thomas' - 7pm Christmas Windows lit daily until Friday 31st

Sunday 12th 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham

Advent 3 11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'

Monday 13th Carols Round the Town Wednesday 15th Carols Round the Town

Friday 17th FOAM Carols - New Hall - 6.30pm for 7

Saturday 18th 'Wassail' Winchelsea Arts Concert - St Thomas' - 4pm

Sunday 19th 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham

Advent 4 11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'

6pm: Lessons and Carols at St Thomas'

Wednesday 22nd Carols Round the Tree - WB Community Hall - 6.30 for 7pm

Friday 24th 4pm: Crib Service at St Thomas' Christmas Eve 11pm: Midnight Mass at St Thomas'

Saturday 25th 9.30am: Christmas Eucharist at Icklesham Christmas Day 11am: Christmas Eucharist at St Thomas'

Sunday 26th 11am: Joint Benefice Said Eucharist at St Thomas' (BCP)

Christmas 1 No service at Icklesham

Friday 31st Last night of Christmas Windows

Sun 2nd Jan 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham Christmas 2 11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'

Tuesday 4th Mothers' Prayers - 10am

Further ahead

Sat 22nd Jan Garden Society Winter Lecture

Sat 19th Feb FOAM Quiz



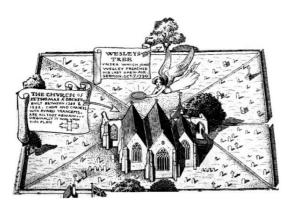
Please send copy for the January Magazine to <u>ryeview@gmail.com</u> before New Year's Eve

For Winchelsea Beach information go to winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk

For Winchelsea information go to winchelsea.com

For more information about the Church go to <u>winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk</u>

For weekly news from the local area go to $\underline{ryenews.org.uk}$



Rector of Winchelsea and Icklesham

The Revd Jonathan Meyer
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01797 226254 <u>revdjonathan@btinternet.com</u>
The Rector's day off is Monday

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