

# WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

1st April 2022





## **Holy Week and Easter**

### **14th April - Maundy Thursday**

Benefice Service at St Thomas'

7:30pm: Holy Communion with  
Washing of the Feet

### **15th April - Good Friday**

Benefice Service at Icklesham

2pm: Service of Meditation on the Cross

### **16th April - Holy Saturday**

Benefice Service at St Thomas'

8pm: Easter Vigil, Service of Light

### **17th April - Easter Day**

5:45am: Dawn Eucharist on the Beach  
(in St Richard's if wet)

9.30am: Easter Eucharist at Icklesham

11am: Easter Eucharist at Winchelsea



## **Standing room only**

There was standing room only at St Thomas' Church on Sunday 6th March for a fundraising concert in support of Ukraine. People gathered from Winchelsea, Rye and around the district to hear pianist Misha Galant, who had been taking part in the Hastings International Piano Concerto Competition.

Tom Hoffman and Jane Archutowska hosted Misha, in Winchelsea, while he took part. Aged 24, with an American father and Russian mother, he has been studying in Moscow and the US. He performed music by Alexander Scriabin and César Franck, bringing the concert to a stirring conclusion with a bravura performance of Chopin's Polonaise in A flat major - 'The Heroic'. Applause was long and loud. Circumstances mean that Misha will not be able to return to Russia in the foreseeable future.

In his closing remarks, the rector reflected on the power that comes from gathering in a sacred space to affirm our shared humanity. As we express our solidarity with

the besieged people of Ukraine, he asked us also to remember Misha's family in Russia, the young Russian soldiers conscripted into this needless conflict, and brave citizens protesting in Moscow and beyond.

The fantastic final total of donations going to the Disasters Emergency Committee is £5845. Thank you to everyone who contributed

The concert is online on YouTube  
[youtu.be/XdyBANFab\\_E](https://youtu.be/XdyBANFab_E)

and donations to the DEC appeal can be made via their website - [dec.org.uk](https://dec.org.uk).

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## **Reflections from the Rectory**

By the time you read this we will be over halfway through the Lenten fast. We draw near to Easter, to the day of Resurrection. Over the past two years I've been very aware that each time I write a piece for the magazine by the time it is published the news may have moved on.

Last year and the year before, it was the situation with regard to Covid that had a tendency to change quickly; we were burdened with restrictions and regulations and it was difficult to look forward. This year it is the horror of the war in Ukraine and the situation there changes from day to day. We are all praying for some good news to come out from this terrible disaster, but it may well be back by Easter things will not have improved.

In a practical way I know that a number of people have offered to house refugees and it is likely that by Easter they may have arrived in significant numbers. It is possible or appropriate for everyone to offer accommodation and our church has registered to help under a scheme encouraged by the diocese called Sanctuary Foundation. As well as helping find accommodation for people it has been set up to give advice on other ways in which we can help. Several people have contacted me to offer their help and I hope



that as a church we will be able to coordinate support for those affected.

Having a roof over one's head is of the greatest importance but practical support in how to negotiate everyday life in a foreign land and a foreign tongue will be invaluable. If you're interested in helping do let me know. At this stage we are very much in the position of waiting to ascertain what will be most helpful in our context rather than rushing to do things that may not prove to be appropriate or effective.

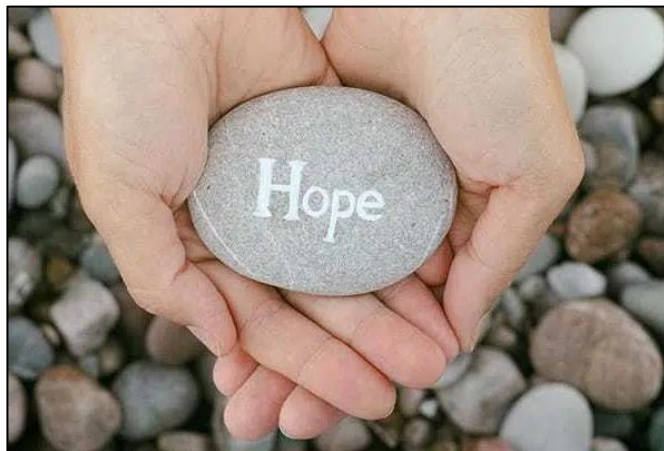
I know many people have been unsettled and anxious about the events unfolding in Ukraine. The sheer inhumanity seems impossible to take it. Those of you who attended the Winchelsea Arts concert given by young musicians from the King's College School Wimbledon and found room for optimism.

Not only were the performers young, full of enthusiasm and obviously enjoying their performance, they happened to be extremely good as well. To me and I'm sure to many others they seem like a beacon of hope in dark times. A symbol of youth for the future. One of the pieces the choir sang was a setting of a track from the album "Rubber Soul" by John Lennon, "In My Life". It was apparently one of his most favourite lyrics and he felt especially that he was true to himself in the lyrics.



One of the verses struck me as I listened;

*All these places have their moments  
With lovers and friends I still can recall  
Some are dead and some are living  
In my life I've loved them all*



“Some are dead and some are living.” Sitting in our beautiful church, full of youth and life I thought of our churchyard populated with those who have lived and loved in this place. The vitality and hope expressed by these young people made me think of the way Christ bursts from the tomb on the Day of Resurrection. Past and present are gathered into a future hope, the loves and the lives of those in this place, some dead and some living are gathered up and offered to God. The dividing line between the breath of life and the peace of death is fragile and when the power of the Living God bursts through it is meaningless. That is the mystery of Easter.

*Jonathan*

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## **Easter Lily Fund**

Each year we have a large arrangement of lilies displayed in the sanctuary at St Thomas' in memory of loved ones. If you would like to contribute please speak to Charlotte Beecroft. The minimum contribution is £3.



## Ukraine Sunflower Aid

*Peter Cosstick writes:* Some of you will have read on *Rye News* that two of our local RNLI Rye Harbour crew members Brendan Towner and Paul Ramsey volunteered with many others to deliver aid to support the people of Ukraine on behalf of a new humanitarian group Ukraine Sunflower Aid, set up by Digby Furneaux of the Swan Pub in Midhurst.

I spoke to Paul (landlord of the *New Inn*, Winchelsea) the other day, and asked him to tell me about his experience

Paul was so moved by the events in Ukraine, and felt he wanted to help. When he learned of what Ukraine Sunflower Aid had planned, he and Brendan jumped at the chance to volunteer, and do what they could. On Sunday 13th March both Paul and Brendan left Winchelsea, and headed for Midhurst, which was the designated meeting, distribution and collection point.

On arrival they found other volunteers had also arrived from all over the country, wishing to be involved in this project. On Monday 14th March vehicles were loaded with essential aid, including food, sleeping bags, babies' nappies, baby milk, toothpaste, and much more.

A convoy of twelve vans and one escort vehicle set off for Folkestone to catch the shuttle, with a planned route of driving through France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and then into Poland, stopping for refreshment, comfort breaks, fuel, and changing drivers.

On Tuesday 15th March. After thirty hours of driving, the convoy arrived in Poland and stopped in a hotel overnight. The convoy set off again the following day for a further two hours through Poland to reach the designated drop off and distribution point not too far from the border of Ukraine. Paul mentioned how well everything was organised with many aid workers on hand to assist. The best way he can describe his feelings would be ‘very humbled’

Some of the convoy then drove off to the Polish-Ukrainian border accompanied by armed forces to deliver additional aid. On their return they mentioned how moved they were when an elderly lady from Ukraine took out her purse and offered to pay for some of the items. They were surprised at the large number of Ukrainian teenage girls that were in the area, who as we know are a possible target for people trafficking gangs.

The journey back home began with all volunteers arriving back safely in the UK, Thursday 17th March. Paul sums it up - “What an absolute honour and privilege it was to have had the opportunity to have been part of this trip, Digby, Paul, Jake and the rest of the team did a great job making sure we all knew exactly what, where and when we had to be, so well organised.

A further aid operation is planned for 7th April, with a key focus on delivering essential medical equipment including incubators, operating tables and medicines. Paul will be returning on the next vital mission planned in April.

Paul mentioned the best way for anyone wishing to contribute or obtain more information is to visit:  
[justgiving.com/crowdfunding/UkraineSunflowerAid](https://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/UkraineSunflowerAid)

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## Legs Left

*Second Wednesday chair, Natasha Robinson, writes*

April, my month and my father's, a big celebration in our family. Ironically, he always used to say a bad month for business. This year, a big month for three of the Abrahamic Religions, with Ramadan and Passover starting on the 2nd and 15th respectively and Easter Day on the 17th. And for those who find solace and joy in nature, Earth Day is the 22nd of April.

Our March talk came off the front pages and into the New Hall. Mary Smith, the former head teacher of Maidstone Grammar School for Girls, spoke to us about "A Schoolgirl's War".

War in Europe, no longer just in black and white, but now in technicolour on our screens daily. The previous Sunday evening many of us had attended Misha Galant's piano recital in aid of Ukraine, held in the church.

Mary reminded us that along with the hi-tech of smartphones, the low-tech of paper and paint is equally vivid. The British Army still has Official War Artists after all, commissioned to document specific conflicts. The most familiar to us may be Paul Nash, who lived in Rye for a short time.

After her chance discovery of "War Diary 1939-46" and a network of bomb shelters built under the school, Mary has made it her life's work to highlight the beautiful artwork of Helen Keen and the social and architectural history of life for schoolchildren during the Second World War.

Helen was the Art Teacher who kept that diary, a record of daily life, in sketches and watercolour. Her pictures are bright and humorous, but packed with historical detail, making them a unique archive.

She tracked down and interviewed sixty old girls and staff, who gave her their first hand recollections of school life in those underground tunnels. They were able to explain some of the logistics of learning in such cramped and inhospitable conditions, not immediately obvious to those not present.

The damp walls were lined with benches, where the girls would sit, opposite one another, knees touching. When the teachers needed to get passed, the instruction was "Legs Left" and a path immediately appeared, allowing them through.

As someone clearly passionate about education and the wellbeing of children, she also touched on the effects of the pandemic and how today's Maidstone Girls have

also expressed themselves through art, using Helen's paintings as inspiration.

Our April speaker is the artist Andrew Ashton. Working in ceramics and latterly cardboard, he has many strings to his bow, lecturing in art history, curating exhibitions and restoring gardens. Many of you will remember his previous talks on Beryl Cook and Banksy. This time it's "Statues", which is a vast subject, both in terms of the arc of history and the variety of possible materials used. Circle Wednesday the 13th in your diaries.

When President Zelenskyy took office in 2019, he said this in his inaugural speech: "I do not want my picture in your offices, the President is not an icon, an idol or a portrait. Hang your kids pictures instead and look at them every time you make a decision". Wise and prescient words.

[2ndWeds@gmail.com](mailto:2ndWeds@gmail.com)





## **Winchelsea Corporation**

The Winchelsea mayoring marks the start of the annual cycle of Cinque Ports' civic events - our mayor making is always the first of the year. Representatives of other towns have accepted the invitation to attend, as have our MP and the Lord-Lieutenant, and we look forward to welcoming them.

There's an open invitation to all the town to join us at the ceremony in the church on Easter Monday morning, and also to come to the mayor's reception in the evening. We do hope you will be able to be there.

To get a sense of numbers, particularly for the catering in the evening, we'd be grateful if you could RSVP to the town clerk, Lorna Challand  
[\*lorna.challand@keme.co.uk\*](mailto:lorna.challand@keme.co.uk)

### **Thanks to Stuart**

Stuart Raine stood down as chair of FOAM at last month's AGM. We are really grateful to him for his leadership and for the harmonious working relationship that he has fostered between FOAM and the Corporation. A warm welcome to Phil Mack as he takes over from Stuart.

## **Discover Winchelsea**

Members of the Corporation have been working on the production of a new printed brochure to encourage visitors to come to the town. This will become available during April and you will find the electronic version on [winchelsea.com](http://winchelsea.com). We are very grateful to incoming Deputy Mayor, Peter Cosstick for his initiative on this.

## **Booking the Court Hall**

After he takes up office, all bookings for the Court Hall should be made directly with David Merrifield, 01797 222162.

## **New Treasurer**

We're pleased to announce that Stephen King will be taking over as Corporation treasurer in succession to John Rodley. The 2021 Annual Report and Accounts are available here [winchelsea.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Winchelsea-Corporation-Annual-Report-2021.pdf](http://winchelsea.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Winchelsea-Corporation-Annual-Report-2021.pdf)



## **Jubilee Gate**

One of the final duties of the outgoing mayor was to declare open the new gate that links Monks Walk to Friars Road through the Jubilee Playground. Icklesham Parish Council commissioned it; a project supervised by Cllr David Smedley. Children will now have an additional way of getting to and from school, relieving some of the pressure on Friars Road.



## **An Invitation to the Winchelsea Mayoring Ceremony**

This year, for the first time, the ceremony will be a fully public event  
It will be held on Easter Monday as it has been since the foundation  
of the town and you are warmly invited to attend

On that day David Merrifield will take up the office of Mayor  
in succession to David Page

At the ceremony Ian Kingham will be appointed Freeman

The Mayor and Corporation would greatly value your support  
at this celebration which reflects the unique and special  
story of our town

**11.am on Easter Monday, 18th April 2022  
at Winchelsea Church**

The ceremony will last about 40 minutes and there will be an evening  
reception from 6.30 to 8.30 in the New Hall

**All are welcome**

R.S.V.P. The Town Clerk, Lorna Challand  
[lorna.challand@keme.co.uk](mailto:lorna.challand@keme.co.uk) or 01797 222710





## Garden Society Spring Show

The Spring Show takes place at the New Hall on the afternoon of Saturday 9th April, starting at 2pm.

Categories include flowers, floral art, vegetables, pot plants and cookery and all the details are in the 2022 Schedule booklet. If you'd like to enter something but haven't got a Schedule yet, please contact Sally and Graham Rhodda 01797 226062.

Entry forms have to reach them by 5pm on Thursday 7th, and exhibits must be staged between 9.30 and 11am on Saturday morning.

There'll be refreshments and, as always, plenty of good things to see.

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## Winchelsea's Spring Gardens

Six gardens will open for the National Garden Scheme at Easter weekend - on Saturday 16th April from 1pm to 5.30.

The Friends of the Conquest Hospital will provide teas in the New Hall in aid of their funds. Garden admission money will all go to the nursing charities supported by the NGS.

The gardens are *King's Leap*, *Rye View*, *Periteau House*, *Cleveland Place*, *The Well House* and *Firebrand*. Admission to the group costs £5 for adults and is free for children.

The summer NGS opening takes place on Saturday 18th June when ten gardens will open, with an opening for the Friends of the Hospital at Rye on the following afternoon.

[ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk)

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## Churchyard biodiversity report

*Shirley Meyer writes:* Spring has arrived. Working in The Rectory Garden almost every day now, I look for signs of new growth. Perennials are only just sticking their leaves above ground to check the temperature. Much of the soil still feels cold to the touch.

I look at the meadow circles every day too, while walking Pip. The lovely fritillaries are out at the moment, attracting lots of bees, and in the circle opposite the Little Shop, blue muscari have appeared.

Other grasses and wildflowers are taking longer to germinate but look very closely and it is happening. Jim Kay walked round with Paul and me, pointing out the tiny leaves and shoots.

There are clumps of the old turf thriving too, but it was necessary to leave some in place to enable the yellow rattle - the plant at the heart of a successful wildflower meadow - to get a foothold. This is because yellow rattle is parasitic and will keep the strong, dominant grasses at bay, enabling the new mixed native grasses and flowers to establish.

Our group is working to assist the growth of new species and nurture those already in place. We wish to encourage the patches of violets to spread too and hope

that you will also support the planting of native wild primroses in the damper areas. We will be trialling some small areas of selective mowing to see what appears, but our vision is always to aim for a churchyard that gives pleasure, peace and is a valuable reminder of the glory of Creation. It is, like any creative project, a work in progress and an act of faith.



But there is trouble in Paradise. Paul is worried about the colonies of honeybees that seem to have died out over the winter. He will keep an eye out for any new swarms that move into the existing nests later this spring. We love our bees!

You will be pleased to know that signage and an information sheet will, hopefully, be appearing in April to help engage the wider public.

Thank you for all your continued interest and support of the project.

*Shirley and Paul.*

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Out and about in St Thomas's Street      *Cathy Veys*

The image shows the BBC Radio 4 'Ramblings' podcast page. At the top, the BBC Radio 4 logo is on the left, and the word 'Ramblings' is in a large white font. Below this is a navigation bar with links: Home, Episodes, Clips, Galleries, Podcast, Presenter, Contact Us, and Ramblings. The main visual is a photograph of a man and a woman standing in front of a large, ancient stone castle with multiple towers and arches. The man is wearing a grey coat, and the woman is wearing a blue and white jacket. Overlaid on the bottom left of the photo is a speaker icon and the text 'Listen now'. Below the photo, the title 'Old and New Winchelsea with historian Dr Matthew Green' is written in white. Underneath the title, there is a short description: 'Winchelsea in East Sussex was lost to the sea in the 11th Century and rebuilt on a cliff inland.' To the right of this description, it says 'Available now' with a clock icon and '24 minutes'. On the right side of the page, there is a sidebar with the text 'Last on', a small Radio 4 logo, and 'More ep'. Below that, it says 'PREVI Around with F' and 'NEXT The S in Ker'. At the bottom of the sidebar, it says 'See all episo'.

## Winchelsea on Radio 4

A walk through Winchelsea is the subject of Clare Balding's Radio 4 series, 'Ramblings', first broadcast on 24th March. The programme lasts just under half an hour and is available on BBC Sounds.

Matthew Green's book 'Shadowlands: A Journey Through Lost Britain' was published by Faber & Faber in March. Including Winchelsea - Old and New - it tells the story of a whole variety of lost communities, from St Kilda in the Hebrides to Norfolk villages taken over by the War Office in the 1940s and never handed back.

[bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0015lx7](https://bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0015lx7)

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## Cellar tours invitation

A reminder that we are marking the resumption of our popular medieval cellar tours after a two year break by inviting local residents to join one of two free-of-charge tours to be held on Saturday 2nd April and Saturday 9th April, both starting at 11am from the Town Well in Castle Street.

Although these tours are free, cash donations are always welcome! All proceeds from these two tours will be shared equally by FOAM and Winchelsea Archaeological Society.

To avoid overcrowding, we do need to know numbers in advance so if you want to come along, please pre-book a place by emailing your name(s), Winchelsea address and contact details, together with your chosen date, to [cellars@winchelsea.com](mailto:cellars@winchelsea.com) or by ringing the dedicated cellar tours phone on 07596 182874. Regrettably we cannot accommodate dogs or very small children.

We look forward to seeing you!

*The Winchelsea Cellar Tours team*

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## **WAS monthly guided walks**

Winchelsea Archaeological Society will be running a series of monthly walks, starting at the Town Well at 2.15pm and lasting maybe 60 minutes. All are welcome to these free guided walks, initially on Saturdays 9th April and 14th May.

A very successful trial of the walk to about 25 to 30 members of the Winchelsea Archaeological Society was held on 26th March with, as you can see in the photograph, perfect weather.

We are pleased to announce the start of public walks on Saturday 9th April with 'What's left of Iham' - the village present on Iham Hill before the arrival of New Winchelsea in the late 13th century. The remains of Iham are in the north-west corner of the current town. This walk will be repeated on Saturday 14th May.

What do we know about Iham - the cinque port limb of Hastings - apart from the boundary stones? Did Castle Field contain a Castle and a Round Tower, the Roundel? Was Iham an Anglo Saxon village?

Please email Andrew at [andrewscottb@aol.com](mailto:andrewscottb@aol.com) or Merv at [mervynhack@sky.com](mailto:mervynhack@sky.com) if you are interested in joining the Society, helping on the Committee or the research or require further information about the walks.



## **Aziza's art on show**

A retrospective of the paintings and sculptures of Winchelsea artist Aziza Eid Janssens will be held on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th April from 11am to 4pm at the Lower Court Hall. All are welcome.

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## Winchelsea Methodist Chapel

We are now beginning to hold some events at the Chapel and all are most welcome. On Wednesday 13th April at 7pm there will be 'Reflections for Holy Week' led by the Rev Tricia Williams – Minister in the Hastings Bexhill and Rye Methodist circuit. Light refreshments will follow.

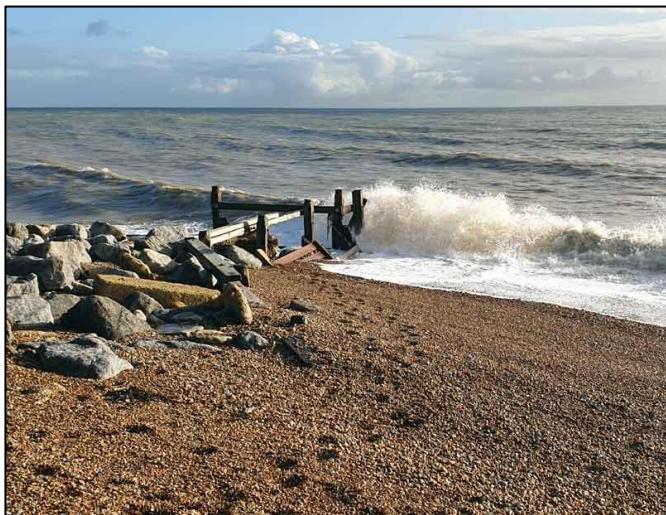
Then on Saturday 16th April the Chapel will have an Open Afternoon to link with the Open Gardens in the town. Open hours will be 1 to 5.30pm.

One forward date is Sunday 19th June at 2.30pm when Stephen Page will be leading a music and worship workshop, followed at 5pm with a special service led by Stephen and the Rev Philip Wagstaff. All are most welcome to join us for either or both, and light refreshments will be service between the activities.

Thank you for your support of the Chapel.

*Barry Turnwell, Publicity Officer*  
[winchelseachapel.org](http://winchelseachapel.org)

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## **News from the Beach**

Winchelsea Beach Community Association have been granted planning permission to extend and reconfigure the front of our hall. We will relocate toilets and add a store room and fully accessible disabled toilet with baby changing facilities. Now the fun begins - watch this space.

We are holding a coffee morning and table sale on Easter Monday from 10.30 till 12.30. To book a stall call Jacky Barker 07947 618989

We also have a group of residents starting a litter picking group on the last Thursday of the month. Meet at the hall at 2pm - equipment provided.  
Phone number as above.

[winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk](http://winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk)

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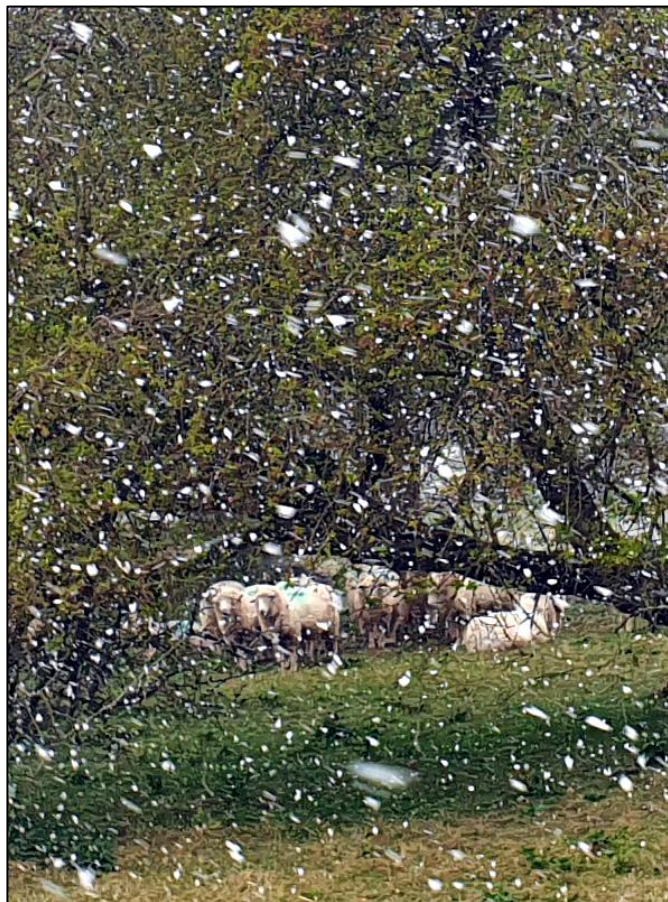
## **Next steps for St Richard's**

We have now had a Charities Act Report on St Richard's Church as required. The advice is that it should be offered for sale by private treaty. It is not recommended that any work is carried out in advance or that any enquiries are made with regard to planning or change of use. The PCC have been informed and we expect to be able to proceed in due course, pending instructions regarding how we treat the cremated remains interred on the site.

We have sought the advice of the Chancellor of the Diocese of Chichester regarding cremated remains and are waiting for his response. Naturally this is a delicate matter and we will certainly make every effort to contact any living relatives of those whose remains were interred there. The Rector has already spoken to two people, representing the remains of four different people and they would both be happy for them to be re-buried at St Thomas'.

If anyone has a relative or knows of anyone whose remains were buried there, please contact the rector. It should be noted that the church and the surrounding area is not consecrated and remains were not interred in accordance with the usual regulations. However this will not have a bearing on how they are handled and every effort will be made to treat them with proper respect and in accordance with Christian practice.





## **Icklesham Parish Council**

Monday 11th April. Planning Committee at Rye Harbour Village Hall at 6.15, followed by Finance Committee.

Monday 25th. Planning Committee in the Court Hall, Winchelsea, at 6.15.

The meetings scheduled for 28th March were cancelled. Covid played its part as the Clerk, as well as some Councillors have caught it recently. The Annual Parish Meeting which was scheduled for 4th April has been rearranged as the venue was not available. It is now due to take place in May.

## **Traffic Calming**

Council agreed the purchase of the data recorders, and these have been ordered. A working group has been set up to recommend where in the Parish these should be used after the survey in Winchelsea has been carried out and to manage the operation of the recorders.

This does require some training, as well obtaining a licence from the Highway Authorities to install them within the highway boundaries. Every site will have to be agreed.

The Clerk has instructions to call a public meeting at the end of April to be attended by the Consultants and East Sussex Highways.

## **Winchelsea Beach Sewerage meeting**

The meeting took place as planned. I am not convinced that much was achieved. Southern Water remain convinced that the solution to the problem is to eliminate storm water and ground water from the system. Whilst that will undoubtedly improve things, I am not convinced it will resolve the problems of sewage arising in gardens.

They are proposing to look at the impact of the loss of water courses over the past 50 years. This is an issue I raised about four years ago. The Internal Drainage Board Engineer investigated this at the time and reported that all the watercourses had disappeared long before any flooding problems manifested themselves in the area. His view was that loss of watercourses was not a factor.

*Cllr Peter Turner*

[ickleshampc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ickleshampc@hotmail.co.uk)  
[ickleshampc.org](http://ickleshampc.org)

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## **Winchelsea Residents' Association**

Please make a note in your diaries for the second General Members Meeting on Saturday 23rd April at 11am in the New Hall.

### **Traffic Calming**

The planned discussion on traffic calming options went ahead on 7th March, hosted by the Open Spaces Committee and chaired by Cllr Smedley. Icklesham Parish Council invited each local business, the school, museum and church and representatives from the Residents' Association and Traffic Calming Working Group.

The discussion gave an opportunity to focus on particular traffic-related issues affecting the school and local businesses and their level of support for the options presented in the consultant's report and Traffic Calming Working Group response.

IPC will ask for more detailed costings of the no left turn/ no right turn option. They also agreed to buy two Black Cat speed monitoring devices.

IPC has agreed to hold an open public meeting to include a presentation from the consultants, GTA, on the options highlighted in their report and the Working

Group's response. There will be an opportunity to ask questions before identifying a preferred option that will go forward to formal consultation.

### **Public Toilets**

We are pleased to report some progress. Rother agreed, with support from Howard Norton, for an inspection by our team of the toilet block with an officer from Rother in attendance. That has taken place and it is clear that repair to the block is needed.

The block comprises three units, male and female at either end which need repair and a disabled toilet in the centre which needs cleaning and modest repair to the floor tiles but otherwise could be in use.

We have now proposed to Rother as a temporary measure that the disabled toilet could be designated as unisex, Rother arrange cleaning and the tiling repair and then reopened to the public. We await their response.

### **Pavements**

Earlier in March, damage to the kerb on the corner of High Street and Rookery Lane was reported to East Sussex Highways by one of our members. Relevant WRA committee members have been copied in on the correspondence and have been asked to be informed of developments.

The committee will get involved if the repair is not made soon. It appears that the cause of the damage is likely to have been a Biffa truck which was collecting waste from the shop (prior to the shop relocating).

You can view the latest updates on the WRA website [www.winchelseaRA.com](http://www.winchelseaRA.com)

### **Annual Subscription**

You can subscribe electronically - please pay by BACS / Nat West Business Ac no - 59667362 / sort code - 60-02-07. (£5 per member). Please include your name in the reference - or pay by cash, using the drop box in the Little Shop, filling in the form with your £5 subscription to ensure you are registered.



## Winchelsea Anniversaries

### 50 years ago

The need for public conveniences in Winchelsea became a matter of controversial concern in 1972. In fact action was not really necessary while landlords of the *New Inn* were prepared to leave their outside toilets unlocked and available for use even if on a strictly unofficial basis.

The situation changed in October 1970 when the parish council was told that the *New Inn* facilities were to be improved and re-designed so that access was available only from the bars. The *Castle Inn* later made similar provision on a temporary basis but the need for a permanent site in Winchelsea was established and the cat was really among the pigeons.

To continue the analogy, hackles rose even further when the rector, the parish council and the rural district council came out in favour of a site in the churchyard, adjoining St. Thomas's Street, next to the electricity sub-station. The basis of their argument in favour was that this was right at the centre of the town, exactly where the facility was needed, particularly as coaches were at that time parking in Castle Street.

Many residents were horrified. The original suggested position was actually on the highway verge next to the



sub-station but the highway authority objected and planning applications were later submitted for sites within the churchyard both beside the original position and opposite *Nelgarde*.

A complication which further inflamed the furore was that a Draft Tourist Appraisal published for the town had foreseen the need for a public car and coach park to meet the requirements of a growing number of visitors.

This could not be provided centrally and the construction of the toilets at whatever place might be chosen for this other facility was an obvious possibility which attracted many of those so fiercely opposed to the sites in St. Thomas's Street. Numerous positions for the toilets and the vehicle park were suggested

Winchelsea Corporation, however, was adamant that the public conveniences should be provided in the Trojan's Plat corner of Greyfriars Park adjoining German Street. They believed that a car and coach park of suitable design, not using asphalt and maintaining the trees, as at many National Trust properties, could be provided alongside when it could be afforded.

This, as all readers will be aware, was the view which eventually prevailed and for half a century that site, with a long lay-by rather than a car park, has been successful. Sadly the toilet building now suffers from subsidence and is closed.

How this will eventually be dealt with remains to be seen but the present writer, as a non-resident, definitely finds the absence of conveniences extremely inconvenient.

*Malcolm Pratt*

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*Visitors will be relieved to know that Rother District Council are providing temporary toilets on the site for the garden openings on 16th April and 19th June.*



## **Literary Society**

Speaker on Friday 22nd April is Claire Foster Gilbert, author, and Director of the Westminster Institute. The title of her talk is 'Letters from Lockdown: keeping integrity alive in public life through the pandemic'.

7pm for 7.30 in the Court Hall

[winlitsoc.blogspot.com](http://winlitsoc.blogspot.com)

[winlitsoc@gmail.com](mailto:winlitsoc@gmail.com)

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## **Conservation Society AGM**

The Society will be holding its AGM on Saturday 30th April at 10am in the Lower Court Hall. All members are welcome and membership can be bought at the door. Coffee and tea will be available.

*John Spencer*

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## **Bowls Club Open Day**

Winchelsea Bowls Club will be holding an Open Day at the club on Saturday 30th April between 1pm and 4pm for anyone of any age interested in taking up the sport of bowls.

We are a friendly and welcoming Club located behind the New Hall. Just come along to this free event and have some fun with no obligation to join the club.

We will provide the equipment and tuition (please wear flat shoes). We will look forward to seeing you.

[www.winchelseabowlsclub.co.uk](http://www.winchelseabowlsclub.co.uk)

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Hamo de Ottinton, Abbot of Battle, celebrated in stained glass at St Laurence, Hawkhurst. He was instrumental in saving Winchelsea from devastation after French attacks in 1377, as the inscription declares.

The window dates from the post-war restoration of Hawkhurst church which was badly damaged by a flying bomb that landed in the churchyard in 1944.



The ELLEN TERRY Barn Theatre  
in association with the NATIONAL TRUST present



## Falstaff at the Barn

Winchelsea actor Mike Stoneham will be taking to the stage in a one-man production - 'Falstaff' at the Ellen Terry Barn Theatre at Smallhythe in May.

Adapted from Robert Nye's acclaimed novel, Falstaff merges Shakespeare's great comic creation with the real-life soldier, Sir John Fastolf. The result is a deeply moving, funny, bawdy romp through the middle-ages. Agincourt, frogs, slugs and plenty of onions all receive the Falstaff touch.

Rye & Winchelsea both feature in this living, breathing, warts-an'-all tapestry of the larger-than-life old knight. The show runs from the 12th - 16th May with tickets available from [etbarntheatre.com](http://etbarntheatre.com)

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# Rotary Spring Charity Walk

Sunday 22nd May

You will remember previous Rotary walks have raised quite a sum of money for the Friends of the Ancient Monuments and indeed other charities. We would be grateful therefore if you could join us and not only help our charities would enjoy a community day out.

The walk is approximately eight miles with options of a short walk and medium walk of 2.5 and 3.5 miles. You may walk as a team individually or as a family group the choice is yours. The walk this year will take in Rye to Playden and Peasmarch. You can start walking at any time from 9-00 to 11-00pm on the day starting at Channons Country Store, Rye Cattle Market.

Rotary ask for a donation of £10 (adults) and £5 (16 -18 year-olds - under 16's walk free) payable on the day. Entry forms and sponsorship forms will be available at check in on the day. If you are raising money for sponsorship this year 100% of that raised will go to your charity. Sponsorship forms to be returned to Rotary along with funds collected which will then be distributed as you indicate. If walkers raise £100 of more, the club will add 10% to the total.

Information can be obtained from Stuart Raine  
[stuartraine@btinternet.com](mailto:stuartraine@btinternet.com)  
or via [www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs](http://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs)





## **Pett Level Rescue Boat**

We were thrilled that the PLIRB Charity Shed will re-open on Sunday 3 April, and will continue to run every Sunday from 10am to 4pm (weather permitting). This much-loved and busy stall raises enormously valuable funds for us. We are hugely grateful to everyone who contributes bric-a-brac items and to all those who give up their time to support the stall. Please do stop by to view the goodies on sale – including our PLIRB branded merchandise.

We have been delighted to welcome new volunteer crew to PLIRB over recent months and are immensely proud of their commitment and enthusiasm. We now train twice a week – on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. The mid-week sessions are incredibly valuable to focus on specific tasks, procedures and first aid, develop skills and knowledge and prepare for the weekend exercise.

They also provide an opportunity for crew to ask questions and take part in a fun quiz. New volunteers are always welcome at PLIRB – there are many roles to fill, from beach, boat and base crew, to fundraising and

administrative activities. Visit us for a cup of tea and to find out more.

As the Easter holiday approaches, the beaches at Pett Level will become busier with local residents enjoying the outdoors and the many visitors who love to enjoy the wonderful surroundings. Where possible, we aim to keep the boathouse open for longer during the holiday weekends, to provide support and beach safety information. Follow us on Facebook for more information.

To keep in touch and to purchase our merchandise, please check out our website <https://plrb.com> or our social media: Twitter @PLIRBRescue; Facebook @PettLevelRescueBoat and Instagram @pettlevelindyrescueboat.





## **Food Bank collection on 5th April**

Cam has brought forward this month's Winchelsea doorstep collection. If you would like to donate to the Rye Food Bank, please give him a ring, so that he can co-ordinate pick up. Donations of Easter eggs for the children would be much appreciated

*Donald Cameron-Clarke 01797 226414*

Financial 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.

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## **Paul Anderson**

Paul died on 7th March. He was 87. He had a distinguished sporting career, playing international rugby for Harlequins and winning bronze at the 1968 Mexico Olympics in the Mixed 5.5 metres Sailing event. He served as Director General, Europe, for the Special Olympics which organises games for children and adults with learning difficulties and he was awarded an OBE in 2012 for this work.

Long-term residents of Winchelsea and former owners of *The Retreat*, Paul and Mo moved to Tenterden just a few years ago. Both contributed a huge amount to the life of the town. Paul's community activities included the organisation of a number of Open Air Opera evenings. He led the old Winchelsea Wine Society. Tastings in the cellar were legendary, as were annual trips to France to pick up what had been ordered.

Paul and Mo were great supporters of FOAM and of the Museum, including preparing it for the start of every season. Paul was for many years highly influential in the management of the Friends of Winchelsea Church, including work to update its constitution. He was also the last person who knew how to toll the church bell properly. Our hearts go out to Mo in her sad loss.



# Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar

## April 2022

Saturday 2nd	Church Market - 10.30am - 12 Residents' Cellar Tour
Sunday 3rd	<b>9.30am: Parish Communion at Pett</b> <b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b>
Tuesday 5th	Mothers' Prayers - 10am - St Richard's
Wednesday 6th	Garden Society Wisley outing
Saturday 9th	Garden Society Spring Show - 2pm - New Hall Aziza Janssens Art Exhibition - 11am-4pm - Court Hall Residents' Cellar Tour WAS Guided walk
Sunday 10th	<b>8am: BCP Holy Communion at Pett Level</b>
<i>Palm Sunday</i>	<b>9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham</b> <b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b> Aziza Janssens Art Exhibition - 11am-4pm - Court Hall
Wednesday 13th	Second Wednesday Society - 2.30pm - New Hall Reflections for Holy Week - 7pm - Wesley's Chapel
<i>Maundy Thursday</i> 14th	<b>7.30pm: Eucharist at Winchelsea</b>
<i>Good Friday</i> 15th	<b>2pm: Meditation at Icklesham</b>
<i>Holy Saturday</i> 16th	<b>8pm: Easter Vigil at Winchelsea</b>
Saturday 16th	NGS Winchelsea Garden Opening
Sunday 17th	<b>5.45am: Dawn Eucharist at Winchelsea Beach</b>
<i>Easter</i>	<b>9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham</b> <b>9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett</b> <b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b>
Monday 18th	Mayoring Ceremony - 11am - St Thomas' Church Mayor's Town Reception - 6.30-8.30pm - New Hall WBCA Coffee morning and table sale - 10.30-12.30 - WB Hall
Friday 22nd	Literary Society - 7pm for 7.30 - Court Hall
Saturday 23rd	Residents' Association meeting - 11am - New Hall
Sunday 24th	<b>9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham</b> <b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b>
Friday 29th	Fellowship Lunch - WB Community Hall - 12.30 for 1pm Winchelsea Wine Society event - 6.30-8pm
Saturday 30th	Conservation Society AGM - 10am - Court Hall Winchelsea Bowls Club Open Day - 1 to 4pm
Sun 1st May	<b>8am: BCP Holy Communion at Winchelsea</b> <b>9.30am: Parish Communion at Pett</b> <b>11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea</b>
Sat 7th May	Church Market - 10.30am - 12

## Further ahead

Sat 14th May	Winchelsea Arts Concert
Thurs 2nd June	Jubilee Beacon firing
Sun 5th June	Big Jubilee Picnic



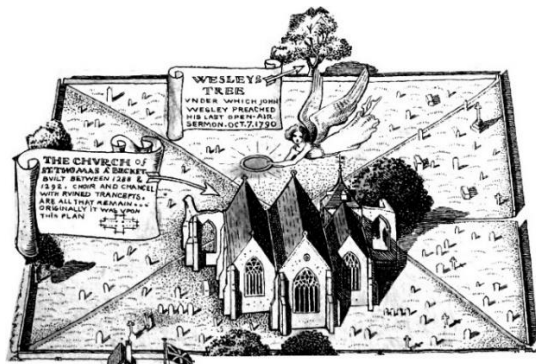
**Please send copy for the May Magazine to  
[ryeview@gmail.com](mailto:ryeview@gmail.com)  
before Saturday 30th April**

For Winchelsea Beach information go to  
[winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk](http://winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk)

For Winchelsea information go to  
[winchelsea.com](http://winchelsea.com)

For more information about the Church go to  
[winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk](http://winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk)

For weekly news from the local area go to  
[ryenews.org.uk](http://ryenews.org.uk)



## **Rector of Winchelsea and Icklesham and Priest in Charge of Pett**

The Revd Jonathan Meyer

The Rectory, St Thomas Street, Winchelsea TN36 4EB

01797 226254 [revdjonathan@btinternet.com](mailto:revdjonathan@btinternet.com)

The Rector's day off is Monday

## **Churchwardens**

Charlotte Beecroft

Burrin House, North St TN36 4HX

01797 223159 [ccmburrin@gmail.com](mailto:ccmburrin@gmail.com)

Celia King

Stargazer, Morlais Place TN36 4LG

01797 227858 [sake.king@hotmail.com](mailto:sake.king@hotmail.com)

## **PCC Secretary**

Angela Hill

Friars Halt, Friars Road TN36 4ED

01797 226325 [angelam.hill@btinternet.com](mailto:angelam.hill@btinternet.com)

## **Parish Treasurer**

Vacancy

## **Gift Aid**

David Jefferies

Wee Five, Sea Road TN36 4LH

01797 222904 [pamela.jefferies@sky.com](mailto:pamela.jefferies@sky.com)

## **Electoral Roll Officer**

Jeremy Naylor

White Cottage, Friars Road TN36 4ED

07985 734936 [jrnaylor@gmail.com](mailto:jrnaylor@gmail.com)

### **Organist**

David Birchenough

07840 595338 [daviddaorganist@icloud.com](mailto:daviddaorganist@icloud.com)

### **St Thomas' Choir**

Marion Lovell

7 Oast House Field, Icklesham TN36 4BP

01424 815247 [marion@abingworth.plus.com](mailto:marion@abingworth.plus.com)

### **St Thomas' Primary School**

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01797 226479

[office@st-thomas-winchelsea.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-thomas-winchelsea.e-sussex.sch.uk)

### **St Richard's Chapel Warden**

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Solstice, Sea Road TN36 4LH

01797 229798 [parkermary848@gmail.com](mailto:parkermary848@gmail.com)

### **Friends of Winchelsea Church**

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