

WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

1st December 2022





Reflections from the Rectory

This year Advent began on the 27th of November. As Christmas falls on a Sunday we have a clear four weeks of Advent. Perhaps that gives us a little more time to ponder, to prepare ourselves for Christmas and to reflect upon its meaning. In church we prepare the Advent ring and light a candle for each Sunday of Advent. The final candle in the centre of the ring is light on Christmas day to symbolise the light of Christ coming into the world.

Looking into the use of Advent rings in church it becomes clear that there are a great variety of ways in which they are prepared. For example there is usually some debate as to the colour of the candles. Some prefer the simplicity of white but others like to follow the more traditional Anglo-Catholic practice of three purple candles, which is the colour symbolic of penance and preparation and which we also use for our liturgical hangings and altar frontal during Advent. The last of the four candles is pink to symbolise Mary and the central candle for Christmas night is white, the liturgical colour for celebration. This year we have decided to use the three colours.

It is not only the colours that seem to be a matter for debate. For some candles symbolise hope, love, Joy, and peace. However the more traditional Anglican symbolism is that

they represent the patriarchs, the prophets, St John the Baptist and Mary. For me there is a clarity and logic about this tradition.

Those who come to church at midnight on Christmas Eve and indeed for the service of Nine Lessons and Carols will hear the majestic reading from John's Gospel about the Logos, the Word of God coming into the world as a fragile vulnerable light that is not overcome. The reading is about the incarnate Word, the mystery that God and all the principles of power and creativity become present in human flesh as a tiny child among us.

If we reflect on the symbolism it points us to the way in which an understanding, or sense of God is gradually revealed over the centuries. It could be symbolic of the way we arrive at a personal sense of God, a sense of what the incarnation means as we peel away the layers of thought scripture and history to reveal the true meaning of the centre of Christmas.

The patriarchs are principally represented by Abraham. Abraham who follows the call of God, the wandering Aramean lost in the desert searching and responding to a sense of God's calling. Later in the history of Israel the prophets reveal more about the implication of God's word. Overwhelmingly they point to the need for social justice, the need to stand up for the poor and the alien, the need for us to follow the word of God in order to create a just society.

And many of their words are remembered as pointing to the advent of Christ. John the Baptist the last of the great prophets recalls the words of Isaiah, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." He is the last call to the Advent of Jesus. And Mary's relationship with God is much closer, she is the Theotokos, the God bearer holding the word of God incarnate within her womb.

The Advent ring can symbolise our own lives and searching, from a dim echo of God's call in the desert to the presence of God in those around us. I will you a fulfilling journey this Advent and always.

Jonathan



Winchelsea Christmas Windows

We have over 60 residents taking part this year and it's still not too late if you'd like to get involved. This Christmas we hope you will once again be able to take part and encourage your neighbours and those new to the town to join us and 'light up Winchelsea'. Just as a reminder, there is no theme or rules, it's taking part that counts, whether it is a candle in your window, lights in the garden, or a winter wonderland.

This year's event will run from Saturday December 10th to New Year's Eve. Our suggestion is that windows or gardens are lit up from around 4.30pm to 8.30pm. Of course, this is just a guide, participants can choose their own start date and lighting period.

We have once again produced a trail guide, and copies will be available in the shop and pub with a donation bucket. Further money will be raised through a 'Just Giving' page (look out for the QR codes for our two charities; St Thomas' Church and Dom's Food Mission)

A huge thank you to all our sponsors who help us to cover all our costs by donating equipment, expertise and cash. Thanks so much to The New Inn, The Little Shop, Commercial Lighting, R&S Paine, Goldfinch Builders and

Martin Donnelly, Nick Shiren and Eric Rowe. Their support means all other donations go to help our two charities.

This year Winchelsea Christmas Windows Group has its very own new 'window' Julian Cloke has kindly agreed to design and build us a light box, which will be located on the pub wall. Thank you Debbie & Paul. This festive lightbox will consist of a series of backlit panels displaying windows from previous years, there will also be a dispenser for our trail guide.

Please contact Chris Chappell who will be happy to answer any questions and offer practical help.

ChrisWinchelsea@icloud.com

Winchelsea Christmas Windows Group
*Lyn Davidson, Ali Casey, Shirley Meyer, Chris Chappell,
Graham Large and John Davidson*

Support Dom's Food Mission this Christmas

This Christmas, DFM has been selected by The Winchelsea Christmas Windows committee as their chosen charity.

I have been volunteering for DFM for almost a year now and it is run by the most amazingly dedicated group of people. I go every Wednesday morning to the hub in Ore where we bag up the incoming food from supermarkets and bakers such as M&S, Morrisons, Tesco, Greggs and the Co-op.

A strong ability to work as part of a team and a sense of humour is very necessary. Walking into a room that smells overpoweringly of sugar and ripe bananas can be challenging first thing in the morning.

The whole philosophy behind the Hastings-based charity is to redirect food that would go to landfill back to people in need, thus avoiding a shocking amount of food waste whilst alleviating hunger. Two tons of food (6000 meals per week) are given out at four main locations in the Hastings area, as well as to women's refuges, care homes, and homeless shelters.



As well as this fantastic work, DFM also goes into local schools and runs cookery sessions. Some pupils from local schools come into the hub to help with the sorting and bagging on certain days, helping to work as a team and understand the wider questions of food waste.

Please give as generously as you can this Christmas, to this fantastic local organisation who support the local community in so many ways. *Shirley Meyer*

Early start for Church Market

The 3rd December Church Market will start and end a little earlier than usual to make space for a wedding later in the day. It will start at 10am and finish at 11.30.

Christmas cards will be on sale together with the usual homemade produce and the book stall. Coffee and good company.

Normal timings resume on 7th January.



Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards sold to raise funds for the Church are available now. Designed by Shirley Meyer, they are priced at £6 for a packet of ten - the same price as last year. Please contact Deborah Rodley - 01797 223458 - to place an order, or buy them at the Church Market.

THE
NEW INN
WINCHELSEA

Charity Quiz Night

7pm

Sunday 4th December

Cash Prize and Raffle

Maximum 6 per team

Booking now

Phone Paul 01797 226252 or pop in to the Pub

Supporting

Demelza
Hospice Care for Children





Kt Bruce

Spanish Evening

On Friday November 4th in the New Hall Winchelsea the stage was set for the Corporation's Spanish Evening and what an evening it turned out to be.

Seven mayors from Cinque Port towns and approximately 70 residents supported the fundraising event held for the benefit of the Mayor and Mayoress' charities, the Corporation of Winchelsea and Demelza House Children's Hospice.

The hall was very colourful, with red and yellow bunting and stunning fan embellished floral table centrepieces created by Celia King. Guests were greeted on arrival with a glass of cava or sherry, before enjoying the first display of flamenco dancing by Flamenco y Danza, expertly accompanied by their guitarist Diego Roque. The costumes were amazing, the dancing impressive and the guitarist first class.

Next on the agenda came the delicious selection of 15 tapas dishes beautifully prepared and served by our willing band of volunteers, with a centrepiece of a whole Serrano ham generously donated by the Spanish Food Company, Brindisa. After the second dance session, pudding was served.

This was the traditional Torta de Santiago based on a 500-year-old recipe eaten, no doubt, by pilgrims from Winchelsea travelling along the Camino de Santiago centuries ago. Rather more recently, our Rector Jonathan Meyer undertook this pilgrimage and he spoke about his experience.

The final dance session was followed by an impromptu flamenco lesson enthusiastically enjoyed by participating members of the audience. The event concluded with a very successful raffle and auction of a picture, featuring a flamenco dancer, by Winchelsea artist Cheryl Fraser-Sampson which, together, raised over £500.

In conclusion, David and Sandra Merrifield would like to thank all those who worked tirelessly to help make this memorable event such an enjoyable success. We are also very grateful to those who gave monetary donations, including several residents who were unable to attend.



Kt Bruce

We are very pleased to announce that a sum of exactly £3,000 was raised to be divided equally between our two charities.

But it doesn't stop there. Alan McKinna's daughter, Fiona, has kindly donated four watercolours previously owned by her father, to be sold for the benefit of our charities. Two are of the Court Hall, one of the Greyfriars ruin and the other of the Court Hall garden.

These will be displayed at the next Church Market on Saturday 3rd December. Please take a look and if interested leave a sealed bid, detailing the picture number, your bid and contact details in the box provided and we will then be in touch.



WINCHELSEA FILM NIGHT

**Winchelsea Residents Association
in conjunction with Winchelsea New Hall**

CABARET

SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER

WINCHELSEA

NEW HALL

6.00pm for

7.00pm

**Admission Free
Refreshments,
Day Bar.
Come early, enjoy a
drink or two.
Screening starts at
7.00pm**





Poppy Appeal 2022

Although subject to audit, a little over £2,750 was raised, compared with a little over £2,500 last year. This figure does not include Gift Aid and donations made on line, so the final total will be higher.

This represents an excellent effort in Winchelsea and Winchelsea Beach and the RBL 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.

Thank you very much.

John Rodley, Local Appeal Organiser



Tristan and Me

On December 9th the drama of opera is brought to Literary Society when we welcome Martin Handley with 'Tristan and Me'. You may be familiar with Martin from Radio 3.

Martin has been pursuing a joint career as conductor and broadcaster for much of the last fifty years. His operatic conducting has taken him round the world, from Australian Opera to ENO, USA to Germany, South Africa to the Royal Danish Opera.

Martin says that even before all that he felt pursued by Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*, one of the most influential, forward-looking, involving operas ever written. Martin has met Tristan in many places and in many situations, even - much to his surprise - becoming Tristan on stage in a national opera house! *Tristan and Me* is quite a tale.....

We meet in the Lower Court Hall at 7 for 7:30pm. Free glass of wine on arrival. Visitors and guests welcome (suggested donation £5). The Literary Society 2023 programme will be available: you will be able to pay your £20 annual membership subscription and beat the January rush.

winlitsoc@gmail.com



Wine Society

Forty three members of the Winchelsea Wine Society gathered at the New Hall on 19th November for our second friendly tasting event during our first year of operation. At this event six wines had been selected to match the traditional Christmas Day meal, from pre-dinner canapés to Christmas pudding.

To help bring this alive members were offered small portions of traditional Christmas fare to sample with the wines. While considering and discussing how good matches might be made and bad avoided, the truth soon emerged that, with respect to the natural pairings based on such factors as acidity or sweetness and texture etc, everyone will have their own individual taste - and if you have a very good wine it will probably best to drink it without anything else!

The society has run four events, two tastings and two visits, during 2022 and we intend to continue our programme in 2023, beginning with an event on 17th March, led by a talk by David Hopkins to consider and discuss the history of wine in Winchelsea which, it is intended, will be open to all. Please look out for more details about this which we will send out in the next few weeks.

If you would like to join the society's email list please contact brianleonard779@gmail.com.



A Venetian Christmas

Un Natale Veneziano

Ensemble Orquesta Baroque

directed by Marcio da Silva

Concert by Candlelight

including

Winter from Vivaldi's The Four Seasons
and the Christmas Concerto by Corelli

Friday 16th December at 7.30pm



**St Thomas' Church
Winchelsea
TN36 4EB**

Winchelsea Arts

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

£20

free for under 18s



Tickets available online now at winchelsea-arts.org.uk



Heroines, High Notes and Mince Pies

Anyone else think of Rose Sayer last Second Wednesday? For those of you who weren't able to make our talk, or who don't get movie references, Rose Sayer is the imperious, single minded heroine played by Katharine Hepburn in *The African Queen*. Although set in 1914 and East Africa, the immaculate English spinster, forging her way down river, determined to carry on against all odds, bares more than a passing resemblance to Mary Kingsley.

A couple of days before the Armistice weekend, Brigadier Hugh Willing had introduced us to an extraordinary Victorian adventurer, who in 1893 had set off, entirely on her own, to explore West Africa. To my shame I had never heard of her. Gertrude Bell obviously looms largest of the great female explorers, but many pioneering women, with names like Octavie Coudreau, Beatrix Bulstrode and I kid you not, Aloha Wanderwell, along with Mary Kingsley, also undertook important voyages.

Mary, the daughter of George, a doctor who spent most of his life travelling abroad and niece of Charles, of 'Water Babies' fame, was her mother's principal carer. Even though she grew up in an intellectual household, where literature, politics and science were every day conversation and Charles Darwin was a family friend, she herself had no formal education. Instead she read voraciously and taught herself.

At the age of 29, with both her parents dead, she bought herself a one way ticket from Liverpool to West Africa. In her formal clothing, she paddled her own canoe and went to areas no white man, let alone woman, had ever been to. With her panga at hand, she fought off leopards, hippos and crocodiles. She was the first to photograph the country and the first European to climb Mount Cameroon.

She became a famously outspoken speaker against Colonialism and what she perceived as the malign influence that missionaries had on the native people and championed instead, their culture and way of life.

She also had her own Charlie Allnut, the character played by Humphrey Bogart in the film, as she stood up for the 'Palm Oil Ruffians', or local white traders, despised by colonialists. Maybe these contrary views for the time, her opposition to the suffrage movement and her early death during the Boer War, all contributed to her falling out of the spotlight.

Back to present day Winchelsea and we look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday the 14th of December. For our final SWS of the year, we'll start a little earlier at 2.00pm, with our AGM. The usual incentive to attend, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies will of course be provided.

Then we'll go straight into the festivities with singing from 'Tune in Winchelsea', followed by Tony Davis' General Knowledge Quiz, the proceeds of which will go to Dementia UK. All this accompanied by afternoon tea.

We'll end on a high and hope to see as many of you as possible. On behalf of the entire Winchelsea Second Wednesday Society, we'd like to thank you for your support throughout the year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and safe New Year.

Natasha Robinson



Hourly train service from May

Protest group, 'Three Oaks and Winchelsea Action for Rail Transport' (THWART) was formed 17 years ago when Southern gave notice that they were cutting rail services at our two stations to five a day, all at unusable times.

With Monica Betson from Three Oaks, I started a campaign which with the support from our local MP Michael Foster reached Parliament. With local community backing on and off our station, we did eventually get a two-hourly service back, but for only six days a week. Some years later after yet more campaigning we were given a Sunday service especially to promote tourism and walking.

We have now been told that after 17 years of action with multiple monthly meetings, we will at long last have reached our goal of an hourly service from May 2023. We have to hope that people will return to use our little stations to travel east to Ashford and HS1 etc or west to Hastings, Bexhill and Eastbourne.

The newly created car park, better lighting, new seats and up to the minute information at the 'help point' will at Winchelsea attract in due course more passengers help make the station more attractive to travel from. Also the planters, looked after so well by Judith Payne, and the artwork from

the school we hope will help. The heavy brigade of Chris Chappell and the two Davidsons and myself are involved but if more wish to volunteer please let me know.

In due course think of the station, help promote it, even use it so we don't lose it. But first we have to have a reliable service.

John Spencer, Deputy Porter Winchelsea Station

Greetings from Marion

Sending warm good wishes for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy New Year to all the lovely people who I know in Winchelsea. I shall not be sending cards to you this year; a donation will go to charity, some to the Salvation Army, some to Crisis at Christmas. Very special thanks to the Choir for all their help and support.

With love to everyone, *Marion Lovell*

Downsizing Sale

Howard and David are delighted to report that their three downsizing sales have raised getting on for £2,500 for the chosen charities - Médecins sans Frontières and Butterfly Conservation. Thanks, everyone, for your support.

Mothers' Prayers

Mothers Prayers in December will be on Tuesday 5th at *Wee Five*, Sea Road at 10am.

Fellowship Lunch

The next Fellowship Lunch will be on 27th January in Winchelsea Beach Village Hall at 12.30 for 1pm. The team send their best wishes for a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year to all our regular diners. *Mary Parker*



Another very successful Christmas Fair

On Saturday 12th 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 and substantially increasing the money raised compared to 2021 (which was in itself a very successful year.).

The Christmas Fair is now the main fundraising event for the New Hall. This year, as in 2020 and 2021, we are committed to donating a significant sum to the Rye Food Bank.

We are delighted to say you helped us to raise a total of £3,071 after all costs. The raffle raised an impressive £1,536, 50% of which we will be donating to the Rye Food Bank. All other revenue will go to the New Hall. This will help significantly towards the upgrading of the ladies and men's toilets.

We decorated the hall with a mass of fairy lights, bunting and Christmas trees. Thank you to everyone who lent us Christmas lights and helped us decorate the hall. We hope you agree the New Hall looked lovely.

A further thank you needs to go to the wonderful array of different stall holders who make the event such a success, also half were new to the Winchelsea Christmas Fair in 2022; we heard that many had a very successful day.

Our wonderful Grand Raffle and Tombola were a massive success and we are so grateful to all those who donated raffle and tombola prizes including Rye Harbour Reserve, the George Hotel, Rye Retreat and the Little Shop (to mention just a few) and so many friends and neighbours in the town. And of course a big thank you to everyone who supported us by buying tickets.



We hope you agree it really was a lovely Christmassy community event, aided by lovely 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, Jo, Diana, Jerry and Ali
The Christmas Fair Committee.*



Certificates of Appreciation

Mayor David Merrifield presented certificates to Nathan Bligh and Danny Watkins at November's Corporation meeting. A similar certificate was given to Paul and Debbie Ramsey at the *New Inn* charity quiz at the end of October.

The certificates marked their 'very significant contribution to the life of the town and the welfare of its residents over a prolonged period, but particularly between 2020 and 2022 when normal activity was curtailed by pandemic restrictions'



The October charity quiz at the *New Inn* was a fundraiser for Winchelsea Museum and raised £385.



Summer Fete - Town Meeting 7th Jan

The Summer Fete and Dog Show has been for many, many years the central event in the summer calendar in the town. For the past five years the New Hall committee has run the fete. It has been ably supported by volunteers in the town supporting the numerous activities taking place on the day.

The Fete itself has raised funds for various charities including the New Hall, Rye Food Bank, Rye and Winchelsea Memorial Hospital, Pett Level Rescue Boat and East Sussex air ambulance. Prior to that it had been run in some form or another at various times by the Garden Society and individuals. As previously announced the New Hall committee has decided in 2023 to hand over the running to others within the town.

A town meeting is being held on Saturday 7th January at 3pm in the New Hall to provide an overview on how the Fete has been set up and run , spell out future options and answer questions on all aspects .

The meeting has as its purpose the future of the event and to establish if there are a group of individuals or a society wishing to take over the running of Fete in 2023. Refreshments will be available.

New Hall Committee



Diocesan Pilgrimage To The Holy Land

Our Archdeacon Dr Edward Dowler is leading a Chichester Diocese Pilgrimage to the Holy Land between 6th and 13th February 2023. Here is the link to the booklet on the Diocese Website

https://cofechichester.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2022/10/Chichester_brochure_Ven_Edward_Dowler_2023.pdf

It would be great if we could organise a group from Winchelsea. Shirley and I definitely going and I believe that there are still places available. Do let me know if you think you might be interested. *Jonathan*

Advent Evening Prayer

There will be three sessions of Evening Prayer for Advent at 6pm on Thursday 1st December, Wednesday 7th December and 14th December in Church. It is hoped to make them available over Zoom too. Let Jonathan know if you would like to receive a Zoom link.

Bible Study

As publicised in the last edition we will gather for a session of Bible Study in the New Inn on Tuesday 6th December at 6pm. All are welcome do ask Jonathan if you would like more information.



Christmas Services at St Thomas'

Sunday 18th

6pm

Lessons and Carols by
Candlelight

Christmas Eve

4pm

Crib Service

11.30pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

11am

Family Eucharist



Carols in the Court Hall - Saturday 17th

We are delighted to announce that Carols in the Court Hall is back. We couldn't run it last year, so we are super excited that this traditional start to a Winchelsea Christmas will happen on Saturday 17th December at 7pm. For anyone who has not been before, singing carols with your neighbours in the beautifully decorated medieval hall is a lovely experience.

The event is hosted by FOAM, as a thank-you for the town's support during the year, in maintaining our medieval gates, the Court Hall and the Town Well.

There is no charge, everyone is welcome, and a glass of wine and something to nibble will be on offer. Doors open at 6.30pm. We do hope you can start the festive season with us, if you can – please let us know by email, so that we can manage numbers.

Chris Chappell chriswinchelsea@icloud.com

*on behalf of the Friends of the Ancient Monuments
and Museum*

FOAM



Come and join us

Carols
in the
Court Hall

Saturday Dec 17th

6.30 for 7pm

Everyone welcome!

Friends of the Ancient Monuments & Museum



Christmas Carols and Reflections

The Friends of Winchelsea Methodist Chapel warmly invite you to join them for a special 'Christmas Carols and Reflections' service on Saturday 10th at 11am at Wesley's Chapel in Rectory Lane.

The event will be led by the Revd Philip Wagstaff and friends. Seasonal refreshments will follow the service, with a collection for charity.

For more information, call 01424 216456
or visit winchelseachapel.org



Carol Singing Trail - 20th and 22nd

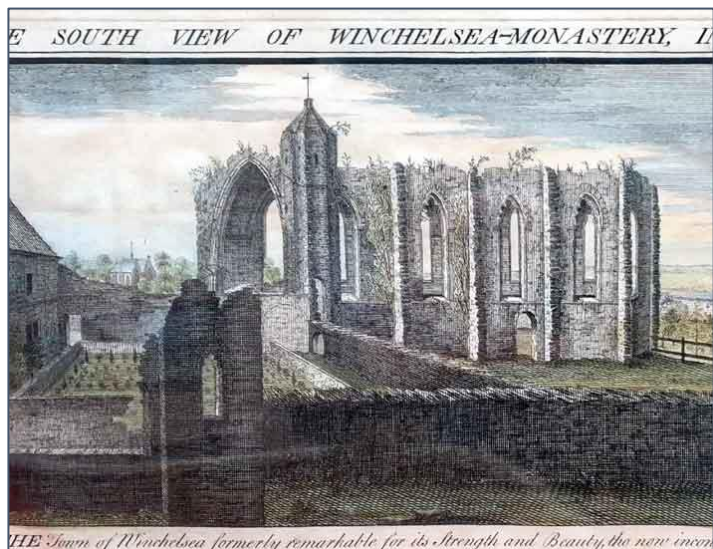
Winchelsea Christmas Windows have taken over the baton from Carol Scoines this year for Carol Singing Around the Town. We hope we carry on the tradition with the same high standard that Carol has set and this year we are raising funds for Dom's Food Mission and St Thomas' Church.

We now have over 60 participants decorating their windows with a Christmas theme. We will follow the trail of lit windows by singing in the streets of Winchelsea on Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd from 6pm to 8pm.

If you would like to add your voice on either one or both nights please let Lyn know on lyn.davidson@outlook.com

As soon as we know who would like to join us we will send all singers further information on the Trail routes and the Carols to be sung. If anyone has any particular request or query please let Lyn know.

Many thanks and we hope to see you for two joyful evenings of Carol Singing in true Christmas spirit.
Thank you - Lyn, Shirley, Ali, Chris, Graham and John



Arresting the Ravages of Time

On November 19th, Conservation Society had a superb session on the subjects which are so closely aligned with the preservation of Winchelsea's 13th century ruins. Speaker, John Bailey, was informative, insightful and humorous.

We learnt much about his own experience maintaining cathedrals - preserving and stabilising parts of Rochester Cathedral, Guildford cathedral as well as St Thomas' Church here in Winchelsea. It was so interesting to realise that in the transepts there was so much unnoticed detail in the surviving stonework.

Our speaker is a very experienced architect and one has to hope that he will be able to help with other ancient monuments in the town, including those that the Corporation is responsible for, and even Greyfriars.

The Greyfriars ruin has been on Historic England's 'At Risk' register for 20 years, and we were kindly allowed to visit it after lunch.

John Spencer Chair Winchelsea Conservation Society



Winchelsea Anniversaries

225 Years Ago

It was in 1797 that Richard Barwell (seen here in a portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds) purchased the Greyfriars estate, thus cementing his control of both of Winchelsea's parliamentary seats, one of which he had held since 1790.

Barwell and the Earl of Darlington were the last patrons of Winchelsea's seats, if you prefer the complimentary term, or Winchelsea's last borough-mongers if you prefer the pejorative one.

By their ownership of Winchelsea land and property they could, in those days before the secret ballot, ensure that voters who lived as tenants on their property, cast their votes as required.

Barwell's public career was in India. He returned to this country at the age of thirty-eight an extremely wealthy man. He had successfully lined his pockets as Warren Hastings'

principal supporter during Hastings' dubious control of the East India Company and is reputed on one occasion to have lost at cards a staggering £20,000.

With plenty still to spare he purchased Stansted Park in West Sussex where he made extensive alterations and became extremely unpopular by forbidding access to land which had been available for public use for centuries. 'His name for this conduct was soon held in such detestation that men women and children hissed and hooted him as he passed in all his oriental state through the villages'.

Always ambitious for parliamentary entry he went about it quite the wrong way by refusing to give evidence to a House of Commons Committee which was inquiring into things which had happened in India. 'Eventually he had to be brought before them by threat of force'.

Although this set his future parliamentary colleagues against him, his wealth was quite sufficient to enable him to fulfil his ambition when, in 1790, he purchased one of Winchelsea's seats and himself stood for election.

He was thus reviled by his fellow members from the start. After an undistinguished parliamentary career he died in 1804 unlamented by those outside his large family at Stansted and leaving two illegitimate children in the local parish there.

He was succeeded by the Earl of Darlington, eventually Duke of Cleveland, a much more enlightened character who eventually supported the 1832 Reform Act and the abolition of the seats he controlled, including Winchelsea.

Sadly, this is the last of Malcolm Pratt's 'Anniversary' articles. He has decided that advancing years and declining health must bring an end to his always fascinating researches. Our grateful thanks to Malcolm, and our very best wishes to him and to Bridget.

He doesn't do email but, if you want to send him a card or an appreciative note, the address is 16 Downlands Avenue Bexhill on Sea TN39 3PL.



Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Welcome to December from Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. It's the perfect time of year for enjoying brisk walks and the sights, sounds and surprises of the reserve as migrating birds arrive, stop off and even settle with us for the winter.

On Sunday 4th December our 'Walk with a Warden' brings the chance to walk with a wildlife expert and find out more about the different species at the reserve. The walk takes a circular route around the reserve from 10am to 1pm. No booking required, just meet us at the Rye Harbour village car park at 10am.

On Thursday 8th December, another free guided walk from 1pm to 4pm. This walk takes in the Castle Water area of the reserve. No booking needed, just meet up at Brede Lock, Harbour Road to join in.

On Saturday 10th December and Wednesday 28th December, 10am to 3pm, two 'Guide in a Hide' events mean more opportunities to drop into the Gooders Hide (the one between the car park and the sea) to learn more about birding on the reserve with our friendly volunteer guides.

On Friday 16th December, 10am to 12:30pm, 'Beginning Birdwatching' with James Duncan. Starting from the

Discovery Centre, James Duncan guides a 3km circular walk dedicated to spotting some of the wonderful winter species here. This free activity is highly recommended for anyone who would like to get started with bird knowledge and identification.

A big thank you to all our local friends who came along to our Festive Makers Market in November. We were thrilled with the number of visitors and with sales of our fundraising merchandise. We still have plenty of calendars, books and artwork all featuring images of the reserve, so if anyone is still looking for a unique Christmas gift, please remember our retail shop at the Discovery Centre is open right up until 2pm on Christmas Eve.

After this, the Discovery Centre and Lime Kiln Cafe will close at 2pm on Christmas Eve and remain closed throughout Christmas Day and Boxing Day, 25th and 26th December. We will reopen at 10am on Tuesday 27th December. We will then be open from 10am - 4pm daily, seven days a week as usual.

Finally, to wish you all a Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2023.

rye.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

Katherine Crowther
Communications Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust



Pett Level Rescue Boat

As we approach the end of the year, we all take time to reflect on the previous months as well as look positively forward to the coming year. We are so grateful for the incredible support we continue to receive from our community and thank everyone who has taken the time to donate, volunteer or visit us..

In November, twelve volunteers embarked on a three-day casualty care course an advanced and rigorous first aid programme. This in-depth and specialised course focused on essential lifesaving skills tailored to potential conditions and factors of coastal and sea scenarios that our volunteers face.

If you're looking for a stocking filler, we have a range of PLIRB branded merchandise which could make an excellent gift. Trolley tokens, car stickers, gift cards and tote bags – please email plirbrescue@gmail.com if you'd like to purchase anything.

The Benefact Group are running a Twelve Days of Giving scheme through which you can nominate a charity to receive a donation of £1000 between 1st and 16th December. You can nominate for PLIRB by visiting benefactgroup.com/movement-for-good and entering our Charity number 286891. Thank you in advance to everyone who nominates us.



The Lord Warden

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce died on 6th November. He was 79. He became First Sea Lord in 1998 and was subsequently Chief of the Defence Staff.

Lord Boyce was important to Winchelsea as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, a role he took up in 2004. He was here on the three occasions during his time in office when Winchelsea held the Speakership, most recently in 2019.

The picture above shows him outside the Court Hall on Speaker's Day in 2005 with John and Bren Dunk. Lady Boyce died in 2016. Below, greeted at the New Gate shortly after his appointment, having walked from Hastings.





Julia Cooper

Sailor, potter and gardener, Julia died on 26th November. Moving with Richard to Winchelsea in the early 2000s, both quickly became part of the life of the town and of the community of good neighbours in and around Hiham Green.

Julia was a skilled and knowledgeable plantswoman, creating the garden at *Chapel Plat*, sharing gardening advice and expertise, and propagating plants that continue to thrive in the town and beyond. She was also a creative and talented ceramicist, whose pots are widely treasured.

Our condolences go to Richard, and to their children Jill, Simon and David. There will be a private family funeral followed by a thanksgiving service later.



Lights of Love at St Thomas'

Each year Lights of Love offers the opportunity to make a tangible act of remembrance for loved ones no longer with us in the form of dedicating a star or heart on a Lights of Love tree at one of nine locations across Hastings and Rother.

Whether your loved one received the care of St Michael's Hospice or not, young or old, local or further afield, all can be remembered with Lights of Love.

The Service at St Thomas' takes place at 3.15pm on Sunday 4th December.

For more information, go to stmichaelshospice.com



Rye Food Bank

If you are donating via the doorstep collection could you contact me please , so I can draw up a collection plan.

Donald Cameron-Clarke 01797 226414

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.

Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar
December 2022

- Saturday 3rd Church Market 10am till 11.30am
- Sunday 4th** **8am: BCP Holy Communion at Winchelsea**
9.30am: Parish Communion at Pett
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
3.15pm: Lights of Love Service at Winchelsea
Charity Quiz Night - New Inn - 7pm
- Friday 9th Literary Society - Court Hall - 7pm for 7.30
- Saturday 10th Carols and Reflections - Wesley's Chapel - 11am
Film Night - New Hall - 6pm for 7pm
Winchelsea Christmas Windows - until Saturday 31st
- Sunday 11th** **8.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett Level**
9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
- Wednesday 14th Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2pm
- Friday 16th Winchelsea Arts Concert - St Thomas' - 7.30pm
- Saturday 17th FOAM Carols in the Court Hall - 6.30 for 7pm
- Sunday 18th** **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett**
4pm: Carol Service at Icklesham (tbc)
6pm: Carol Service at Winchelsea
- Tuesday 20th Carols Round the Town
- Thursday 22nd Carols Round the Town
- Saturday 24th** **4pm: Crib Service at Winchelsea**
Christmas Eve **11.30pm: Midnight Mass at Winchelsea**
- Sunday 25th** **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett**
Christmas Day **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
11am: Family Eucharist at Winchelsea
- Saturday 31st Final night of Christmas Windows
- Sun 1st Jan** **Benefice Service at Winchelsea - time to be confirmed**
- Sat 7th Jan Church Market 10.30am till 12
Town Meeting about the Summer Fete - New Hall - 3pm

Further ahead

- Sat 21st Jan Garden Society Winter Lecture
- Sat 18th Feb FOAM Quiz



Ian Rowlands

**Please send copy for the January Magazine to
ryeview@gmail.com
before Friday 30th December**

For Winchelsea Beach information go to
winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk

For Winchelsea information go to
winchelsea.com

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

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



Jonathan Murphy

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
The Rector's day off is Monday

Winchelsea Churchwardens

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Burrin House, North St TN36 4HX
01797 223159 ccmburrin@gmail.com

Celia King
Stargazer, Morlais Place TN36 4LG
01797 227858 kingcelia54@gmail.com

PCC Secretary

Angela Hill
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Organist

David Birchenough
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St Thomas' Choir

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

St Thomas' Primary School

Headteacher Carol Gardiner
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01797 226479
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St Richard's Chapel Warden

Mary Parker
Solstice, Sea Road TN36 4LH
01797 229798 parkermary848@gmail.com

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Chairman Ben Chishick
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