

WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

1st January 2023



KT Bruce

2023 - Dates for your diary

January

Sat 21st: Garden Society Winter Lecture

Thurs 26th: National Trust Landscape consultation

February

Sat 18th: FOAM Quiz

March

Fri 17th: Wine Society talk

Sat 18th: Winchelsea Arts Concert

Sat 25th: Garden Society Spring Show

April

Mon 10th: Mayoring Ceremony

May

Sat 6th: Coronation

18th-21st: 'Celebrating Creation' Festival at St Thomas's

Sat 20th: Winchelsea Arts Concert

June

Sat 3rd: Garden Society Rose Show

Sat 10th: Hospice Open Gardens

Sat 17th: NGS Open Gardens

Sun 18th: Open Gardens for the Memorial Hospital

July

Sat 8th: Winchelsea Arts Concert

Sun 9th: Church Patronal Festival

August

Thurs 3rd: Open Air Theatre

Sat 26th: Garden Society Summer Show

September

Sat 2nd: Winchelsea Arts Concert

October

Sat 7th: Winchelsea Arts Concert

November

Sun 12th: Remembrance Sunday

December

Saturday 16th: Winchelsea Arts Christmas Concert







Making a donation for the magazine

If you've valued the magazine this past year and would be willing to mark your appreciation with a donation to church funds we would be very grateful.

You can either donate online at
justgiving.com/fundraising/winchelseapcc

or you can put cash or a cheque in the black box at the back of 'St Thomas' or use the contactless payment machine. If you use a cheque, please make it payable to 'PCC Winchelsea'. Thank you very much.

The digital magazine is available free to anyone who would like to receive it. It currently goes out to over 300 email addresses and is also posted on winchelsea.com.

Fourteen people who can't get it digitally receive a monthly A4 printed digest of the main items.

Thank you!
David Page, Editor



Pub quiz raises over £500 for Demelza

On Sunday 4th December the *New Inn* hosted a charity quiz night and raffle to support Demelza Children's Charity.

Twelve teams took part from Rye and Winchelsea. The pub was full to capacity (despite the clash with the England game) A brilliant festive night, with lots of fun, raffle prizes, festive questions, and most importantly raising £503 for Demelza children's charity.

Many thanks to The New Inn, Little Shop Winchelsea, Rye Retreat, Paws and Claws Rye, and Simply Italian Rye for donating the generous raffle prizes. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event and made the evening a huge success.

Demelza fund raiser Dulcie Newbold (pictured above with Paul Ramsey) attended and took part. Dulcie was overwhelmed by our Winchelsea hospitality and the amount raised, and expressed her thanks to all.

Because of essential maintenance, the New Inn will be fully closed from Monday 9th January, re-opening on Tuesday 17th. After this date, in an effort to manage costs, the pub will not be opening on a Monday until 20th March when normal service resumes.



KT Bruce

Un Natale Veneziano

St Thomas's Church was transformed into a Venetian basilica for the Winchelsea Arts Christmas Concert - *Un Natale Veneziano*, featuring Ensemble OrQuesta Baroque directed by Marcio da Silva.

There was standing room only for this special concert which celebrated the Italian tradition during the nine days before Christmas, originating in folk music, where peasants playing musical instruments would go from town to town re-enacting the shepherds' adoration of the Christ-child.

This was transformed into the high art pastorale and was subsequently incorporated into the concerto form making it a celebration of the nativity.

The ensemble delighted the audience with a selection of Christmas concerti including those by Torelli, Corelli and Valentini as well as *Winter* from *The Four Seasons* by Vivaldi.

For information on future concerts go to winchelsea-arts.org.uk

Peter Hatch



Summer Fete - Meeting on Saturday 7th

A reminder that there will be a town meeting at the New Hall to discuss the future of the Summer Fete and to establish if there is a group of individuals or a society wishing to take over the running of this important town event in 2023.

As previously announced the New Hall committee has decided it will hand over the running to others.

The aim is to provide an overview on how the Fete has been set up and run in recent years, to spell out future options and to answer questions on all aspects.

The meeting starts at 3pm. Refreshments will be available.

New Hall Committee



Winchelsea Landscape: the Future

Would you like to know what the National Trust plans to do with its land holding around the town of Winchelsea?

The Trust, in conjunction with Icklesham Parish Council and Winchelsea Conservation Society, are hosting a meeting in the New Hall on Thursday 26th January.

There will be an opportunity to talk to NT members of staff along with some of the specialist consultants who have helped the Trust formulate its exciting plans to support the revival of the Winchelsea landscape.

The event will be a drop-in session, so come along any time between 2pm and 5pm to learn more. All are welcome.



Garden Society Winter Lecture

This year's lecture sees the welcome return of Troy Scott Smith, head gardener at Sissinghurst.

Saturday 21st January at 2pm for 2.30.

Free admission to members, £5 to visitors and guests.

Garden Society AGM

will be held in the Court Hall at 10am on Saturday 14th



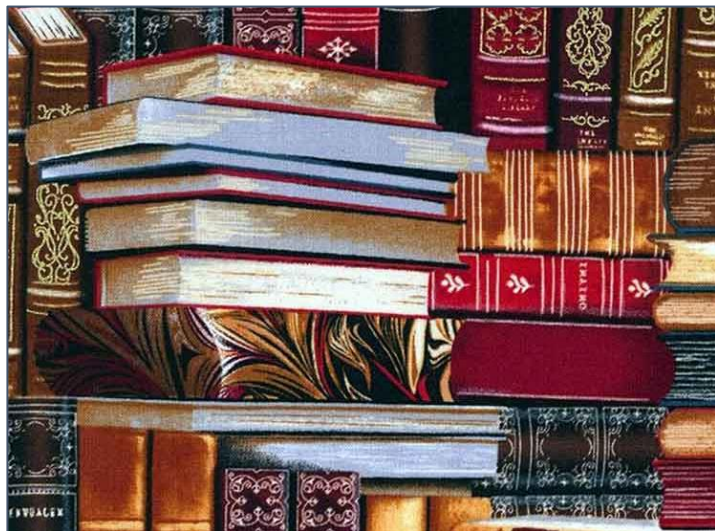
Dominic Manning

Sale of St Richard's approved

Towards the end of last year the final approval for the sale of Saint Richards Church was given by the PCC. It has been a process that has lasted almost two years and has involved extensive discussions and the reflection and prayers of the PCC and all those concerned. The church will be offered on the open market by Messrs Dyer and Hobbs, 43A Havelock Rd, Hastings TN34 1BE, 01424 423626.

After 60 years it is a matter of great sadness that we have felt the church should be closed. However a large sum of money was needed to maintain the building and it has not been able to contribute to our parish share for at least 20 years. It is the wish of the bishop and the hope of the rector that with the agreement of the PCC it will be possible to establish less formal services in Winchelsea Beach and we are committed to maintain a spiritual presence there. This will offer an opportunity for spiritual growth.

The sale will be subject to permission for cremated remains which were buried there to be reinterred at St Thomas's. We have contacted all those with next of kin whom we have been able to trace and they have all agreed that they are happy for remains to be reinterred at St Thomas's, where they will be appropriately commemorated. The final permission needs to come from the Chancellor of the Diocese. If you know of any other relatives or have any questions do not hesitate to contact the rector, the Revd Jonathan Meyer revdjonathan@btinternet.com 01797 226254.



Winchelsea Literary Society Programme 2023

All meetings at 7 for 7.30pm in the Lower Court Hall except March and April. Annual subscription remains at just £20 which includes all meetings and a glass of wine on arrival at each meeting. You can pay in advance by BACS bank transfer to 'Winchelsea Literary Society' 08-92-99 65467837 Ref: *your name(s)*. Visitors and guests £5 (except March and April - £10).

20th January: Vesna Goldsworthy 'Iron Curtain'

We are delighted that author and professor of creative writing Vesna Goldsworthy ('Gorsky', 'Chernobyl Strawberries', 'Monsieur Ka') returns to Winchelsea to talk about her latest novel.

17th February: Richard Ormrod 'The Greatest Literary Imposture of All Time'

Preceded by the AGM.

24th March:

An evening with Lord Moore of Etchingham

Charles Moore, former editor of the Daily Telegraph, (yes, really!) on a subject of his choosing. Possibly in the School.

21st April:**Ian McEwan in conversation with Jon Cook**

Amazingly, our invitation has been accepted!
In the New Hall.

19th May: Members' Evening: Women Writers

After all the excitement of Big Names in March and April, we will entertain each other with favourite readings and poems. In the centenary of Katherine Mansfield's death there is a wealth of women's literature to celebrate.

16th June: Richard Thomas**'Lucky Dip - Memoir or Autobiography?'**

Past committee member and friend, Richard Thomas, talks about writing his recent book which relates his career in the diplomatic service.

14th July: Summer Party**August: no meeting****3rd August: The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company**

Outdoor Commedia dell'Arte on the playing field at
St Thomas' Primary School

22nd September: Marek Urbanowicz**'Dylan Thomas: Not Going Gently'.**

Readings and exploration, 70 years after the death of the great Welsh poet and writer.

20th October: Anthony Sattin**'Nomads: The wanderers who shaped our world'.**

Travel writer and specialist on North Africa, Anthony Sattin brings the world to us.

17th November: Howard Norton.**'John Milton and Politics'.**

Another side to the well-loved 17th Century poet.

15th December:**Charlotte Praeger's 'With Great Pleasure'.**

Charlotte is a founding member of Winchelsea Literary Society. We look forward to hearing her special selection of readings and poetry and why they hold significance for her.



Literary Society in January

This month we welcome back writer Vesna Goldsworthy speaking about her latest novel, *Iron Curtain: A Love Story*.

Vesna Goldsworthy is a Serbian writer and poet who has lived in the UK since 1986. A highly engaging, friendly and entertaining speaker, Vesna is a Professor of Literature at Exeter University and the University of East Anglia.

Previous talks to us were on her books *Inventing Ruritania*, *Chernobyl Strawberries* (her memoirs), *Gorsky* (a reworking of *The Great Gatsby*), and *Monsieur Ka* (a development of *Anna Karenina*).

We look forward to seeing you in the Lower Court Hall at 7 for 7:30pm on Friday 20th January.

The Literary Society AGM will take place on 17th February at 7:30pm, before the regular talk. There will be two committee members standing down so please think about joining the friendly committee. More details from winlitsoc@gmail.com

WINCHELSEA FILM NIGHT
PRESENTS,
AL PACINO IN...

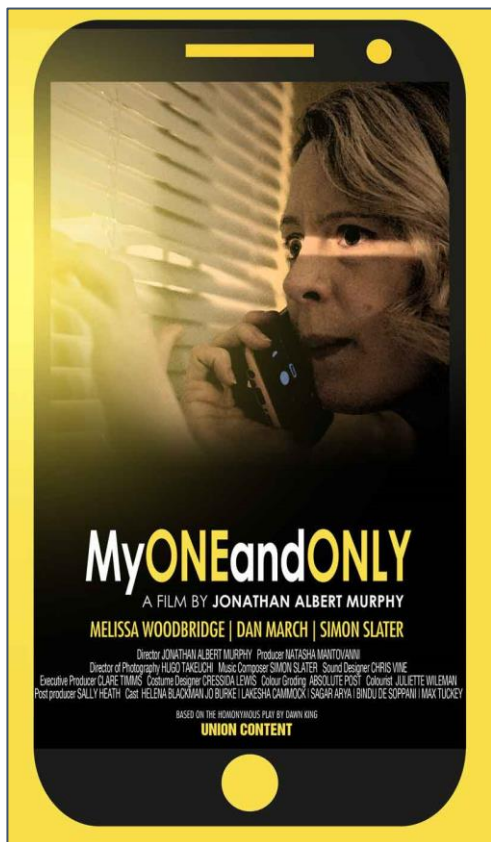
The Scent of a Woman



SATURDAY
14TH JANUARY
WINCHELSEA
NEW HALL
6.00PM FOR 7.00PM

ADMISSION FREE
REFRESHMENTS, PAY BAR.
COME EARLY, ENJOY A DRINK OR TWO.
SCREENING STARTS AT 7.00PM

WINCHELSEA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
IN CONJUNCTION WITH WINCHELSEA NEW HALL



My One and Only

by Winchelsea film-makers, Jonathan and Natasha Murphy will be screening on 21st January at 7.30pm at the Electric Palace, 39a High Street, Hastings and will also be shown at the Kino in Rye this month.

A dark thriller about a single woman, a married man, and a stalker, shot around the South Coast, including locally in Hastings, Winchelsea and Rye.

Laura is counting on a future with her married lover Ben and is devastated when he ends their relationship.

Scorned and bent on vengeance she starts to date Noah who she met on a dating app.

What follows is a cautionary tale about the terrifying impossibility of escaping someone who insists on staying connected. The twists and turns show the psychological and physical dangers lurking in the modern world.



Ian Rowlands

Court Hall Post Office

Winchelsea Post Office has not been open in recent weeks. Anthea damaged her back and has been unable to get about. She is on the mend and hopes to open up again in early January. Our best wishes for a swift recovery.

Mothers' Prayers

Mothers' Prayers in January will be on 4th at 10am at *Dabchick Cottage*, Morlais Place.

Fellowship Lunch

Fellowship lunch will be on Friday 27th January at 12.30 for 1pm in Winchelsea Beach Village Hall. Everyone is welcome provided they contact Mary Parker in advance for catering purposes, on 07927 107678. Donations are invited.

Thanksgiving Service for Julia Cooper

Following a quiet funeral before Christmas, Julia's family are planning a Thanksgiving Service to celebrate her life. It will be held at St Thomas' on Saturday 28th January. All are welcome. Time to be confirmed.



WAS talk on the New Gate

On Saturday 14th January, Winchelsea Archaeological Society will be holding a talk in the New Hall. It will start at 11.15am and following question time, will finish by about 12.15pm. The topic is 'The New Gate' and the speaker is Andrew Scott. The talk expands on aspects of the September walk. It is hoped to have coffee and tea available at 11am.

A. G Bradley (1917 - page 139) states: "In all England there is no medieval gateway to all appearances so unaccountable situated. To my mind there is nothing in Winchelsea more eloquent of its strange story than this ruinous embattled archway, standing so inconsequently aloof and to all seeming as if it had lost its way amid fields and lanes."

This talk tries to find an explanation for such a description and will discuss the following: How does the New Gate differ from the Strand and Pipewell Gates? Was it designed as a Defensive Gate? What was its purpose?

The talk will be made available afterwards as a podcast.



Second Wednesday

So, the second Wednesday of December, the December Second Wednesday, was the last second Wednesday and therefore the final Second Wednesday of the year.

At this point some of you are thinking, "That's nice", some of you are thinking, "What?" and some of you are thinking, "Never start a sentence, never mind a paragraph with 'So' ". You're probably all right.

The event was billed as: 'Mulled Wine and Mince Pies (a bribe to sit through the AGM), AGM, Carol Singing, Quiz Part I, Hot Savouries and Afternoon Tea, Raffle, Quiz Part II and results'. A happy, fun afternoon to finish off the 2022 programme of the Winchelsea Second Wednesday Society.

If it had been a Richard Curtis film, our Christmas party would have been the splendid culmination of a year's work, the gathering of the community, in harmony and harmonising, all bathed in a glow of merriment and festive spirit. If.

A few days before, we realised that no one was on the rota to make and serve the cake and teas. And then the weather hit. The singers cancelled. When we got to the New Hall, we had no milk. We found only a handful of tea bags. No one had ever used the oven before. We had also forgotten to buy the mince pies. The temperature had dropped to freezing,

literally and metaphorically. At this point, my professional ego was somewhat dented.

Putting on events had been of course our bread and butter. Sergio had spent a large part of his life running the largest function room in Europe, The Great Room at The Grosvenor House Hotel. I've lost count of the number of parties and weddings I've organised. But somehow the old saying 'It'll be alright on the night' often does ring true.

Hilary started the ball rolling by recruiting last minute bakers; thank you Penny and Judith. Jo immediately agreed to step back into the fray and run the teas; assisted at the last minute by none other than the Director of Service at the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts, or Sergio to you and I.

Rob ran out to get milk and Bill manned the tea urn, once the PG had been located. Ikea and Waitrose also played their part. Tessa, our constant, was unflappable on the raffle. Kim, as Treasurer, announced a small profit for the year and the Committee was unanimously re-elected.

It was far from perfect, unless you like very crunchy canapés, but the important thing is that between us all, pulling together as a team, our little group had a lovely, happy afternoon. The room was filled with warmth and good humour and hope. Every day may bring new obstacles, but also teaches you something and you discover someone else's secret strength or skill. You're rarely on your own if you share your troubles and improvising is not the end of the world.

What did I learn? During Tony's splendid quiz, I found out that when Rod Hull fell off his roof and died, it was in Winchelsea. Who knew?...well everyone apparently, except me.

And what of the New Year; personally I'd like to wish you all Hilarys, Tessas, Jos and Bills in your lives, to make 2023 a fabulous year. See you on the 11th, it's the first Second Wednesday.

Natasha Robinson



2023 Programme

2.30pm at the New Hall. Annual subscription £15. Tea £2.
2ndWeds@gmail.com

12th January

Mike Stoneham - 'From Page to Stage: Becoming Falstaff'

8th February

Cheese-on-Sea - 'Best of British Cheeses'

8th March

Margaret Sargent - 'The Forgotten Army of the Second World War'

12th April

Richard Feast - 'Why I'll Never Own an Electric Car'

10th May

Shirley Meyer and Paul Youten - 'Winchelsea Wildlife Group'

14th June

Kt Bruce - 'How I became Photographer to the Stars'

12th July

Elaine Luke - 'Malcolm Saville Remembered'

13th September

Hugh Willing - 'The Shady Life of Ian Fleming'

11th October

Chris Viner - 'Napoleon and the Jews'

8th November

Sue Duckworth - 'Folklore in Kent'

13th December Winter Festivities



Traffic calming

In their early-December email to members, Winchelsea Residents Association reported on traffic calming:

Icklesham Parish Council met on 14th November. It considered information collected by the Black Cat devices on the numbers and speed of traffic in the High St and Tanyard Lane over four weeks in September and October.

A few headlines drawn from the data help to show the scale of the problem. An average of 1800 vehicles drove through the High Street every weekday and 2800 vehicles on weekends. Every weekday, an average of 340 vehicles were recorded driving through the High Street at over the current 30 mph speed limit. A further 470+ were driving through at between 25-30mph. Two vehicles were recorded at over 55mph.

The Black Cat data is important evidence of traffic volume and speed. It cannot record through traffic. National Highways (NH) advised IPC that it requires a Destination Survey to record how many vehicles drive through the Town without stopping. We understand that NH can then make a final decision on whether to support our preferred no left turn/no right turn option.

FOAM

Saturday 18th Feb

Avoid a dull February come to our famous

QUIZ

**How much do you know about
Winchelsea and its residents?**

6.30 FOR 7PM

New Hall

Tables of 6 ♦ £12.50 per person

Includes a delicious hot meal!

Raffle ♦ Drinks ♦ Fun!

To book contact Chris Chappell [chriswinchelsea@icloud.com]

Raising funds for the Friends of the Ancient Monuments & Museum

chriswinchelsea@icloud.com

FOAM Quiz

Question: How do you stop February being quite so dull?

Answer: Come to the FOAM quiz!

After such a challenging winter, we thought it was time to have some fun.

So, banish those winter blues and join us at the New Hall on Saturday 18th February for our annual quiz. To raise everyone's spirits, we have designed a light-hearted quiz, to find out just how much you really know about Winchelsea and its residents.

We only have twelve tables, (each seating six people) so please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to join us. Either book a whole table for your team, or we will match you with other quizzers.

Demand is likely to be high, so to ensure your place, please contact Chris Chappell as soon as possible
chriswinchelsea@icloud.com

The price is just £12.50 per person, which includes a delicious home-made meal during the interval. A vegetarian version will be available. There will be a pay bar and raffle.

All profits will go towards maintaining our medieval buildings; The Court House, Town Gates and Well.

We do hope you can join us and help make February fun.
The FOAM committee

winchelsea-foam.org.uk



Winter

I wandered in a winter wood,
Through pathways barely understood,
When underneath a standing fir,
I met a black-clad minister.
Opal and silver shone the moon,
Sharp frosts and snow it augured, soon.
A winter such as never seen
Would grip the grass where flowers had been.
I asked him: 'Father, of your grace,
Tell me why summer's fairest face
Should pale and die? Why winter gives
A blow to all that blithely lives?'
He said 'That nature may have breath,
She first must bear the wound of death.'

Gillian Southgate

*The Oldie set a competition for a sonnet,
specifying the final word for each line.
Gill's poem was one of the winners.*



Rye Food Bank Report

I will be making the January doorstep collection on Tuesday morning, 17th January. If you are on my regular donor list, I will phone you on the afternoon of Sunday 15th to remind you that I will be collecting the following Tuesday.

If you wish to talk to me, please give me a ring so that I can include you in the collection schedule.

Donald Cameron-Clarke 01797 226414

The December Christmas collection amounted to an amazing total weight of 203.85kg or 407.70lbs. This included a most generous donation of Christmas fayre items which were distributed amongst 41 local families who were most grateful.

For my part, I would like to heartily thank those residents of our two Ancient Towns who made this possible.

Every good fortune in 2023!
Cam

Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar
January 2023

- Sunday 1st 11am: Benefice Eucharist at Winchelsea**
- Wednesday 4th Mothers' Prayers
- Saturday 7th Church Market 10am till 11.30am
Summer Fete meeting - New Hall - 3pm
- Sunday 8th 8.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett Level
9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea**
- Wednesday 12th Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30pm
- Saturday 14th Garden Society AGM - Court Hall - 10am
Archaeological Society talk - New Hall - 11.15am
Film Night - New Hall - 6pm for 7
- Sunday 15th 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea**
- Friday 20th Literary Society - Court Hall - 7pm for 7.30
- Saturday 21st Garden Society Winter Lecture - New Hall - 2pm for 2.30
- Sunday 22nd 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea**
- Thursday 26th Winchelsea Landscape consultation - New Hall - 2pm to 5pm
- Friday 27th Fellowship Lunch - W B Community Hall - 12.30 for 1pm
- Saturday 28th Thanksgiving Service for Julia Cooper - St Thomas's
- Sunday 29th 11am: Benefice Eucharist at Winchelsea**
- Sat 4th Feb Church Market 10.30am till 12
- Sun 5th Feb 8am: BCP Holy Communion at Winchelsea
9.30am: Parish Communion at Pett
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea**

Further ahead

- Sat 18th Feb FOAM Quiz



Carols by Candlelight - Nigel Ashton

**Please send copy for the February Magazine to
ryeview@gmail.com
before Tuesday 31st January**

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



Ian Rowlands

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

Charlotte Beecroft

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

Friars Halt, Friars Road TN36 4ED

01797 226325 angelam.hill@btinternet.com

Parish Treasurer

Eric Rowe

Cleveland House, Back Lane TN36 4EE

07939 014811 eric.rowe@me.com

Gift Aid

David Jefferies

Wee Five, Sea Road TN36 4LH

01797 222904 pamela.jefferies@sky.com

Electoral Roll Officer

Jeremy Naylor
White Cottage, Friars Road TN36 4ED
07985 734936 jrnaylor@gmail.com

Organist

David Birchenough
07840 595338 daviddaorganist@icloud.com

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
Friars Road TN36 4ED
01797 226479
office@st-thomas-winchelsea.e-sussex.sch.uk

St Richard's Chapel Warden

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

Friends of Winchelsea Church

Chairman Ben Chishick
Tower Cottage, Barrack Square TN36 4EA
01797 226653 towercottage@btinternet.com

Treasurer Stephen King
Stargazer, Morlais Place TN36 4LG
01797 227858 stephenking408@btinternet.com

Parish Magazine

Editor David Page
4 Kent Close TN36 4EX
01797 226524 ryeview@gmail.com