WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

1st April 2023





Reflections from the Rectory

It is Mothering Sunday just over halfway through Lent when I turn my mind to writing for the April Magazine. Mothering Sunday was traditionally regarded as refreshment Sunday when it was acceptable to have a break from fasting. During Lent as Christians we have been called to engage in prayer and reflection on the Scriptures in preparation for the great Feast of Easter to come. As I thought about this in the words of the collect for Mothering Sunday came to mind,

God of compassion, whose son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself; strengthen us in our daily living in joy and in sorrow that we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal. So much of the Easter message is contained in these words. In fact it is never really possible to distil different parts of the Christian message into particular annual celebrations. In the sense all life and the whole Christian experience of it is always gathered together.

At Christmas we focus on the nativity of Jesus and we reflect upon what it means for God to share life and death with us; to share what it means to be human. At Easter our readings and our liturgy retell the trial and Passion of Jesus.

In church the Maundy Thursday Service of the washing of the feet reminds us of Jesus the Servant and of course the Last Supper.

Good Friday is the time to reflect on the death of Jesus, to lament on all that is wrong with our lives as well with the world and to wonder at the self-sacrifice of Jesus. Holy Saturday is the time of quietness and sadness and a time to reflect on the latent power of God.

Easter Day the day of the Resurrection itself celebrates Jesus' triumph over death. Once again we will offer praise and prayer for this great cycle of the Easter story. You can be there for the days of sorrow and sadness as well as the great hope in the Resurrection as we gather for the dawn service at Winchelsea Beach (perhaps using St Richard's Church for the last time) or at one of our later services.

The prayer for Mothering Sunday underlines that our daily lives are full of joy and sometimes of sorrow. These aspects of life are almost always joined when we gather in church, depending on where people are in their lives there are often mixed emotions for those rites of passage such as baptism, marriage, confirmation or a funeral.

At such times and at Easter we bring before God the whole gamut of human experience, as the prayer for Mothering Sunday recalls. As we gather and are drawn together to celebrate Easter, let us pray that we are drawn to Christ, bound to his presence and healed.

Jonathan



Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday - 2nd

8am: BCP Communion at Winchelsea9.30am: Parish Communion at Pett11am: Parish Eucharist with Reading of

the Passion at Winchelsea

Maundy Thursday - 6th

Benefice Service at Winchelsea **7.30pm**: Holy Communion with Washing of the Feet

Good Friday - 7th

Benefice Service at Icklesham **2pm**: Meditation on the Cross

Easter Eve - 8th

Benefice Service at Winchelsea 8pm: Easter Vigil Service of Light

Easter Day - 9th

6am: Dawn Eucharist on the Beach (at St Richard's if wet)

8.30am: BCP Communion at Pett Level **9.30am**: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham **11am**: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea



Easter Lily Fund

Each year at Easter we have a large arrangement of lilies at St Thomas's, displayed in memory of loved ones. If you would like to contribute, in memory of your loved one(s), please contact Charlotte Beecroft. 01797 223159 ccmburrin@qmail.com The minimum contribution is £4.

Two Church Markets in April

The first Saturday in May is the Coronation so Church Market has been moved forward a week. This month there will be Markets on Saturday 1st and Saturday 29th April.

Timing, as usual, is 10.30am to 12. Coffee, tea and good company. Donations of home baking and produce to sell for church funds are always gratefully received.

Fellowship Lunch

Friday 28th April at 12.30 for 1 at Winchelsea Beach Community Hall. Contact Mary Parker if you plan to come: 01797 229798 parkermary848@qmail.com All are welcome.

Garden Society Spring Show









Spring Show photos by Ian Kingham, Geraldine l'Anson, Sally Rhodda and Natasha Robinson

Spring Show Prize Winners

Sally Rhodda reports: The day started with an opportunity for us to visit Philip Kent's beautiful spring garden before coming to the show at 2 o'clock.

Despite strong winds and heavy rain immediately before the show, I was pleased that so many of members came to support our Spring Show. We had 224 entries, which was more than we expected. In fact, if Howard had not been on his cruise, we would probably have had a 10-year record entry.

I was heartened that we had entries not only from new members, but also from members who had not entered a show before. It was also very encouraging that so many people came to the show during the afternoon.

At the prize-giving, Sandra Merrifield awarded individual class winners with one of our new rosettes and the class trophies were won as follows:

The Society's Cup for Flowers - Helen Macdonald
The Society's Cup for Floral Art - Celia King
The Society's Cup for Pot Plants - Penny West
The Society's Challenge Bowl for Cookery - Celia King
The Overall Winner's Salver for flowers, vegetables
and pot plants - John Dunk
The Armoury Challenge Bowl for Best in Show - Ant Parker
The People's Choice Prize for Floral Art - Elizabeth Cloke

Finally, our past President, John Dunk, was given a special Royal Horticultural Society award in appreciation of his many years of invaluable service to the Society. Winchelsea Garden Society

Garden Design

Chris O'Donoghue, the medal-winning designer, will give a talk illustrating ideas for use in our own gardens

The New Hall Winchelsea 2:00 pm for 2:30 Saturday 1 April 2023

Entry £5 to include tea or coffee





Easter Monday Mayoring

The Winchelsea Mayor Making will again be a fully public event, held on Easter Monday as it has been since the foundation of the town. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The ceremony starts at 11am at St Thomas's Church on Monday 10th April and lasts about 40 minutes.

David Merrifield will begin his second year as mayor and four new freemen will be appointed: Ali Casey, Chris Chappell, Phil Mack and Jonathan Murphy. Angela Hill will be appointed honorary freeman.

The mayor and corporation would greatly value your support at this celebration which reflects the unique and special story of our town.

There will be an evening reception from 6.30 to 8.30 in the New Hall to which you are also invited. If you plan to come to the reception, please contact the town clerk, Lorna Challand, so that we can judge numbers for catering. lornachalland@gmail.com 01797 222710



Mayoring Ceremony

Winchelsea Corporation invite you to the Mayor Making ceremony at 11.am on Easter Monday in Winchelsea Church



Wine Society

Last month's talk, sponsored by the Society and delivered by David Hopkins, attracted 67 attendees from across the town and beyond. The talk was much enjoyed as was the wine procured by Simon Legge.

It was decided that the proceeds from the evening should go the Royal Marsden Hospital Children and Young Peoples Unit. The only expenses incurred were the cost of wine and the hire of the New Hall, so it was possible to send £402 to that charity.

The Society is immensely grateful to David for leading this event and to all those who attended for their generous support and interest. *WWS Committee*



Striking again

The church clock was back to normal at the beginning of last month. Damage to the mechanism had silenced the hourly chimes and this has been repaired. The mechanism that makes it all work looks like this.



Walking the Dog

Shirley Meyer writes: Pip takes me out every morning to blow the cobwebs away have been noticing good things happening recently. There are many grass verges around the town and a wide variety of spring flowers are starting to appear: daffodils and crocus, celandine, primroses, periwinkle, butterbur and deadnettle.

These flowery verges are important links that connect the mosaic of garden habitats in the town and provide a seasonal 'super-highway' for pollinators, which is why we should encourage the growth of wild species, sometimes called 'weeds', rather than falling prey to over-enthusiastic mowing regimes.

It will soon be time for *No Mow May* this year and on 10th May at the Second Wednesday Society myself and Paul Youlten will be giving a talk on the wildlife activities that are going on in Winchelsea at the moment. As well as that, we will be launching the new Winchelsea Green Gardens Award, which seeks to encourage and celebrate participants for thinking and acting in a more sustainable and eco-friendly way. We hope that Winchelsea will become a model for this type of community activity. If you love your garden, wildlife, a challenge or community projects then please come along to find out more.



Winchelsea Residents Association in conjunction with Winchelsea New Hall and in association with FOAM

info@winchelseaRA.com



The loves that drive us

Natasha Robinson writes: Last Second Wednesday was one of the most moving, romantic and unusual tales we've listened to. Margaret Sargent recounted her father's stories as one of 'The Forgotten Army'. Her words and his, delivered with such love, were a tribute to human courage, endurance, ingenuity and hope for the future. A proud and devoted daughter shared her parents' intimate letters and the rarely told history of British prisoners of War in the Far East.

This daughter has spoken to you before about my very Greek father and his fondness for using unusual words. He still uses the word 'wireless', when he tunes into LBC. Until this year, he was the only person I knew who would speak of 'apricity'; I smiled when The Mermaid recently used it in an Instagram Post. Another favourite word is 'disputatious', which remarkably comes from Latin against all odds and not Greek!

I've always been a daddy's girl. Whereas my mother and sister tended to do things together, my father and I shared a love of cooking, heavyweight boxing and fast cars. One of his wonderful words I picked up as a child, was 'wabenzi'. Strictly speaking it's a pejorative Kenyan word, for a member of the new ruling classes, because the first thing they did was

buy a Mercedes. Being born and brought up in East Africa, he and my Aunt would use that word jokingly, instead of Mercedes. Growing up in the wilds of Tanzania, success was one day being able to look through the three pointed star on the end of your bonnet. For my father, German engineering and particularly Mercedes, was the sign that you'd made it in life.

When my parents married, my father had a VW Beetle. My mother was horrified that she would have to go on honeymoon in a German car. One has to remember that this was only twenty years after her father had been killed at Alamein. My father eventually got himself an Audi, four BMWs, until eventually the day arrived when he could afford a Mercedes. My very French Grandmother referred to it disdainfully as 'the taxi', as only mini cab drivers in France drove a Mercedes Benz.

Why do I tell you all this, because now my father's driving days are long gone. He still has a Mercedes that sits in the garage, only used on occasion by me, to take him on hospital visits. So the issue of electric cars has never arisen. It's a question he's never had to ponder, research or understand. The closest he's come is vague conversations with his neighbour Paul, while admiring his brand new electric Jaguar.

Richard Feast on the other hand, is an expert in this field. Without our knowledge, Richard and I have long been acquainted. As the former editor of 'Autosport' and 'What Car?' he was a fixture in our house. So this is my chance and yours to find out more. The tables will be turned and Richard, a devoted Second Wednesday Member, will step up, with his fifty years of experience in the field, to explain 'Why I'll never own an Electric Car'.

We promise you three things at the Winchelsea Second Wednesday Society. You'll always leave knowing more than when you arrived; you'll be surrounded by friends and neighbours, old and new; and you'll enjoy a lovely homemade tea. Happy Easter everyone and see you straight after, on Wednesday 12th April, 2.30pm at the New Hall.



Literary Society Members' Evening

You are invited to bring along and read at the April meeting favourite prose and poems by women writers. This meeting will be held in the Court Hall at 7pm for 7.30 on Friday 21st April.

The conversation between Prof. Jon Cook and author, Ian McEwan originally planned for this month will now take place on Friday 19th May. Anticipating a large audience, the event will take place in the New Hall. Admission is free to members and the charge for visitors and guests will be \mathfrak{L}_{10} .

The Society now has a new contact email address: literarysoc.winchelsea.secretary@gmail.com



Residents' Association Open Meeting

Winchelsea Residents' Association is holding an open meeting at the New Hall on Saturday 15th April, 11am to 12.30pm. All members are welcome. It will be an opportunity to catch up on local traffic issues, how we are helping to improve our local environment and hopefully entertaining you with regular social events. Questions and comments on what we do and ideas for the coming year will be very welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

Parish Council elections

We are close to the four-yearly elections for the Icklesham Parish Council and applications are being encouraged by the council - see *ickleshampc.org*

The parish council covers four distinct communities and it is important for Winchelsea to be represented fully. If any member is interested in becoming one of our local councillors WRA is also happy to provide any advice or support if needed - please just email info@winchelseara.com or speak to any committee member.

Please also note that time is now short. Although the elections are held on 4th May nominations must be received no later than 4pm on Tuesday 4 April

Traffic Calming

Since our last update, there have been two significant meetings. The first was held on 7th March, with National Highways, Cllr Glazier (Leader of East Sussex County Council), East Sussex Highways, IPC and GTA consultants. The Parish Council did not invite the Residents Association and we rely on a note of the meeting.

The meeting intended to decide a traffic calming option acceptable to both national agencies and local councils. National Highways stated it would not agree to any new measure without a comprehensive upgrade of the A259 / Strand Hill junction. This would be complex and expensive. with no agency willing to pay for it. This means that the residents' preferred option of no left turn / no right turn, despite requiring only a very modest kerb extension, will not be agreed by National Highways.

However, the meeting did agree that an option that did not require physical changes at the junction could be acceptable. Closure and a one way arrangement were discussed as possible suitable options. It was made clear that ESCC would expect to see 80% + residents in support of a preferred option.

This discussion was reported to the Parish Council meeting on 13th March. Cllr Glazier from ESCC also attended. IPC proposed that residents are consulted on two options: one way and closure. Residents Association representatives gave their strong support for a consultation on closure of Strand Hill but queried why one way would be included. It has been consulted on twice, rejected each time, receiving only four votes. It requires build outs, signage and street marking with no funding to pay for it and most of the current traffic will continue to drive through the town.

At the meeting, Cllr Glazier was asked directly by the Residents' Association to state his view on a feasible option. His clear view is there is only one viable option - closure of Strand Hill. The Residents' Association is now pressing the Parish Council to agree a consultation on closure of Strand Hill as soon as possible. We will update members at the WRA open meeting 15th April.

Thank you again for your patience and support.



Church Annual Meeting

The annual general meeting for the parish of Saint Thomas takes place on Saturday 22nd April at 10.30 am in church.

The annual report, which includes the activities of the PCC and the financial statement, will be presented along with the other non- statutory reports detailing the activity of the church during 2022. It was also be a chance to elect churchwardens and PCC members. It gives those on the church electoral roll the opportunity to attend and question the Rector, the churchwardens and the PCC. The meeting usually lasts in the region of 45 minutes.

All on the Parish Electoral Roll are eligible and welcome to attend to vote for churchwardens and those on the Church Electoral Roll can vote for PCC members. It is a good opportunity to connect with your church and church leaders.

Additions and changes to the Church Electoral Roll can be made up to Friday 7th April - Good Friday.



Celebrating Creation

A Flower Festival at St. Thomas' Church in May

Starting on Thursday evening 18th May with a Deanery service of Evensong for Ascension Day with Bishop Will, there will be a fundraising flower festival and associated events based in and around the church for three days.

The theme of Celebrating Creation was inspired by the churchyard Wildflower Project, now in its second year and progressing well.

Full details will be in next month's magazine but as a taster of things to come here is an outline. The flowers will be available to view from Friday morning. There will be nature-themed talks, a special church market on Saturday, a concert by Hastings Philharmonic on Saturday evening and a pet service on Sunday afternoon. Refreshments and lunches will be offered throughout the festival. It's going to be a busy time!

If you have even just an hour to spare to help our brilliant catering team serving refreshments in church, then please contact Charlotte Beecroft ccmburrin@gmail.com

Shirley Meyer



Easy Fundraising for the Church

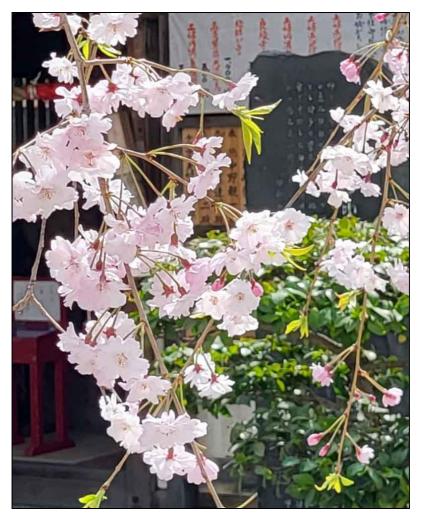
Some time ago I commended 'easyfundraising' to help with fund raising for the church. In the last eight months or so, 15 people have joined and we have now raised almost £300 for church funds. If 60 people were to sign up we might achieve £1000 or more in a year. There is no cost to the user.

Once you sign up you simply go to the 'easyfundraising' site and from there log in to the company from which you want to make an online purchase. You might raise £1.20 for a supermarket shop or £20 for a computer as I did when ordering from Currys through the site.

The larger the purchase the bigger the donation. Please consider it, it is easy to use follow the link below and if you are visiting for the first time you will need to logon after that it is very simple.

easyfundraising.org.uk

Jonathan



Cherry Blossom, Hakata, Japan, 30th March

Winchelsea played a key role in the reintroduction to Japan of one of the best varieties of flowering cherry. *Taihaku* had died out in its home country. The last surviving specimen was found at *Greyfriars* in the 1920s, was propagated, and is now popular around the world You can read the story here. *winchelsea.com/23-04-Taihaku.pdf*



Local Elections Thursday 4th May

All nomination papers from candidates need to be hand delivered to Rother District Council's Elections Office by 4pm on Tuesday 4th April. Please see the Parish Council website and Rother District Council website for further information on the forthcoming elections.

Please note, you will need valid photo ID in order to vote in the elections. Accepted forms of ID include: Passport, Diving licence, Blue badge, Freedom bus pass

Please see the Electoral Commission website for a full list of accepted ID. If you do not have any of the accepted ID you can apply for a 'Voter Authority Certificate' on the Government website, the deadline for doing so is Tuesday 25th April.

The first Full IPC Council meeting following the election is on the 15th May and will be held at Rye Harbour Village Hall at 7.15 pm. The agenda will be published on our website on 9th May. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Icklesham Memorial Hall on Friday 26th May at 7 pm.

Jenner Sands, Clerk, Icklesham Parish Council ickleshampc.org rother.gov.uk electoralcommission.org.uk

Little Shop Association AGM

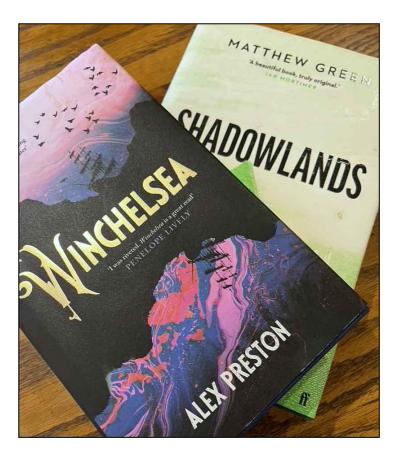
The AGM of Winchelsea Little Shop Association Ltd will be held at the New Hall on Saturday 29th April at 10am. All shareholders are welcome.



Coronation Street Party

Winchelsea Residents' Association social committee, in collaboration with other Winchelsea societies, are planning a town street party on St Thomas' Street on Sunday 7th May from 1pm to 4pm.

This will allow all residents to come together to celebrate this important occasion. More detail will follow via town posters and fliers and via our societies' group contact systems.



Winchelsea: Fact and Fiction A unique event on the afternoon of Monday 8th May

To coincide with the Coronation celebrations, FOAM is planning a very special event on the Bank Holiday Monday.

Alex Preston, author of the rip roaring smuggling tale 'Winchelsea' and Dr Matthew Green author of 'Shadowlands, a journey through lost Britain' will be visiting the town.

They will be talking about and reading from their books, discussing them with each other and answering questions from those attending. Both books are incredibly descriptive, so we are planning an immersive experience where the audience travels with the authors to locations around

Winchelsea that are featured in the books, including the cellars.

There is talk of lanterns and wine drunk from coconut shells in the cellars, while we hear stories about Winchelsea, from two very different perspectives, 'fact and fiction'.

Monday 8th has been designated the 'Big Help Out' a national day of volunteering, so it's great that both authors are giving their time for free, which means we can raise money for FOAM to help maintain some of the medieval buildings featured in their books. And of course, the event will require lots of us to give up our own time to make sure it runs smoothly.

Because of the capacity of some locations, numbers will be limited to just 40 tickets, (split into two groups) so they are likely to sell out very quickly when they go on sale to the general public early in April. If you are interested in attending, and would like more details please let Chris Chappell know asap. Tickets are likely to be £22.50 per person and the event will take around two and a half hours.

And if you would like to do your bit, by volunteering on the day, (which is going to be a lot of fun) we would love to hear from you.

For more information contact Chris Chappell *chriswinchelsea@icloud.com*

New Group for the Visually Impaired

If you have problems with deteriorating eyesight, you may be interested in attending a meeting of a new group for the visually impaired starting after Easter at Icklesham Memorial Hall.

For details, phone Brian Pitt 07980 959213 or Daphne Scott 01424 813488 or Marion Lovell 01424 815247



Winchelsea from above - 1931

Conservation Society

The society's AGM will be held in the Lower Court Hall on Saturday 29th April at 10am. We would welcome new members and encourage present members to attend. We have an interesting programme for the next year.

If members wish to submit questions they should please do so within seven days of the posting of the notice for the AGM. If anyone wishes to stand for a place on the committee the same time schedule applies.

On Saturday 10th June Frank Langrish will be talking to the society on *Food production or rewilding? What is best for Winchelsea?*

We also have a visit to the *Old House* restoration project and *Boxley Abbey Hospitium* near Maidstone courtesy of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, on Wednesday 21st June.

John Spencer



National Trust Landscape Meeting Reflections from the Conservation Society Committee

This meeting attracted 175 residents and non-residents alike. Structured around a series of tables, populated by experts in land management, wildlife issues, water management and the 'Greening up agenda' residents were free to ask questions. But there was no plenary session.

The Audit

The Winchelsea Conservation Society thought it might be helpful to see if we could identify how the session had been received. A simple audit form was given out as participants left the Hall. Thirty forms (all from Winchelsea residents) were later completed and available for a simple analysis.

There was only one question which demonstrated any semblance of statistical rectitude and that gave each respondent the chance to assess the overall impact of the meeting using a scale of 0-10. Six people felt equivocal regarding the meeting and they all scored 5. 11 had given the meeting a score of between 6 and 10 (the best). 2 out of this 11 scored the meeting as a 9 or 10. 13 scored between 1 and 4, and of these 5 people gave the meeting a score of 1 or 2.

There was near unanimity that there should have been a plenary session, while accepting that this carried with it the risk of someone grand standing their views. Almost all respondents felt that communication with residents at such a meeting should be on a much more frequent basis.

No one, it seems knew that National Highways were using tax-payers money to pay for carbon offsets helping the NT to re-wild agricultural land. This when the surface of many trunk roads are in a near lethal state.

The issue of safety and cattle emerged in the audit. People remember that one Winchelsea resident was tragically killed by his own cows just a few years ago. Nonetheless it was clear that they offered an advantage versus sheep regarding land management.

There were concerns that for the time being with war in Europe, food supplies need to be more secure, and that this was not the time to take farmland in general out of production, to save the planet.

Several respondents felt that crisscrossing the Brede valley with fencing will make the area less visually attractive. At one table a comment was made and recorded by several members of the public, that dog walkers will be excluded from NT land. There will be no 'circular walk' was another statement from the same table.

Conclusion

The NT have been invited to communicate with the town by the Winchelsea Conservation Society many times before and after Covid. It eventually became clear that the NT at Dover wished to communicate with the town via the Parish Council.

Both the NT and Parish Council are to be congratulated for producing a meeting which gave the NT a chance to explain what they were planning in the near future with regards their land, which surrounds the town on three sides. Residents are clearly very keen to simply be allowed to have some quality time with the management of the NT. We have attempted to give some feedback on this very first meeting for many years. We trust this will be received in a positive light. As the NT plans develop further, hopefully more meetings between the town and the NT will be held to the benefit of all.

John Spencer



A Busy Year for FOAM

On Saturday March 25th we held our annual general meeting. It was an opportunity to look back on our activities in 2022 and look forward to what we hope to achieve in 2023. The committee reported that 2022 was a very busy year for FOAM. For example, cellar tours, one of our most important fundraising activities resumed after the pandemic.

Between April and October our guides ran 16 public tours, 7 tours in conjunction with the Rye Arts Festival and 5 tours for private groups. We were also able to hold our annual quiz and various other events during the year, which when added to donations and membership fees, provided an income of £12,500, (£4,500 in 2021).

Part of this money has been used to clear weeds from all three gates, while the remainder has been added to our reserves, which have now increased to £47,800, (£38,300 in 2021).

Some of this money is going to be needed to support the Corporation's planned maintenance of the Court Hall, beginning with repairs to the west gable and chimney. FOAM has funded an initial survey of the building by a specialist architect and a detailed schedule of the work required is now being prepared.

Behind the scenes, the committee have been busy improving our operational systems. For example, we are now using Dropbox to manage and archive all our documentation. This virtual filing cabinet is safe and secure, reduces the use of paper, and provides quick and easy access to any document.

We have also replaced our members database with a new online system, this allows new members to join online and existing members, to renew their membership online and if necessary, update their details. The benefits of the new system are already apparent, helping us to increase our membership to 150 people (34% more than last year). And it will provide better communications to our members, distributing regular updates on our activities and forthcoming events.

Finally, at the beginning of 2023, we launched a new online booking system for cellar tours. This replaced a manual system which generated hundreds of phone calls and emails. It's performing well, with over 200 tickets already sold online and many dates now sold out.

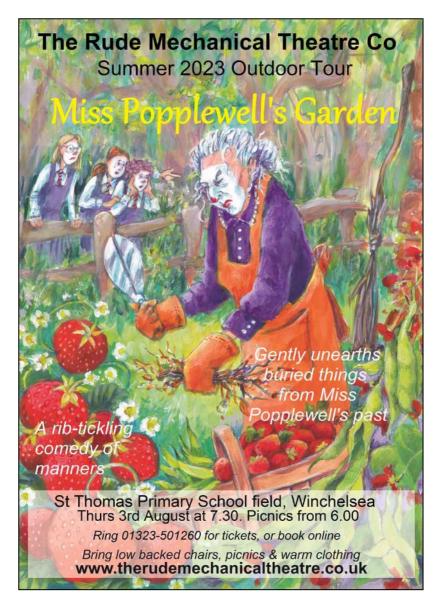
At the AGM our Treasurer Michael Davidson stood down and Ian Rowlands was elected to replace him. Two of our long standing committee members, Annie Spencer and John Lusk, have also decided to step down from the committee. We thank all three for their support.

That means we have some vacancies on the committee to fill. We need someone to help manage and support our membership and someone to help organise the exciting events we have planned for 2023. So, if you would like to lend a hand, and help us raise funds to maintain the wonderful buildings in the town's care, please contact us.

Detailed minutes from the AGM will be available in due course.

Chris Chappell, Secretary; Phil Mack, Chairman; Ian Rowlands, Treasurer. Friends of the Ancient Monuments and Museum

winchelsea-foam.org.uk



The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company returns to Winchelsea on 3rd August - Save the date! The wonderfully creative, talented and funny 'Rudes' return with another original Commedia dell'Arte production More details to come. Sponsored by your Winchelsea Social Committee.

therudemechanicaltheatre.co.uk



A Winchelsea Lighthouse?

Andrew Scott writes: There is a collection of Cinque Port seals in the Town Museum including this one - the reverse side of that for Winchelsea. It is hard to interpret so I have summarised some of the main points made by authors such as Malcolm Pratt, David and Barbara Martin, and others. My thanks to Red Mason for his contribution regarding the harbour dues.

The original design of the Winchelsea seal probably originated in 1247 when Rye and Winchelsea returned to the English Crown (Henry III) from Fécamp Abbey. The design in the Museum is likely to be a version made about fifty years later when Winchelsea transferred to its current site on Iham Hill; this may explain why authors are reluctant to mention whether the seal relates to Old or New Winchelsea.

The original seal design dates back to the days of Old Winchelsea, which is thought to lie under the sea in Rye Bay. This note will focus on the central tower; this is separate from the buildings on the left and right which are supposed to represent the churches of St Thomas and St Giles. There have been suggestions that the tower represents a single building - the town hall. But it may contain various elements in the design - a watch-tower or lighthouse.

Can we find more information about a Winchelsea harbour light or lighthouse?

There was a hermitage dedicated to St Anthony for the maintaining of a light for the harbour; the building providing the lighthouse service survived until 1536 when it lay on a shingle bank called Old Camber Head, which lay about half mile out to sea.

The first lighthouses in England were the two Roman pharos at Dover dated to AD 43 - one in Dover Castle survives as an eight-sided stone building. The light would have come from burning fuel.

In 1261 Henry III granted the Barons of the Cinque Port of Winchelsea a right to demand a harbour due: 'That from every ship putting into the port of Winchelsea, laden with merchandise, they shall take 2d. for the maintenance of a light which they have in their port for the safety of sailors putting in there by night.'

So it appears that on the basis of this grant, apart from the Roman pharos in Dover, Winchelsea had the earliest harbour light in England and was the first port authorised to demand dues for upkeep of the light.

Wealth was needed to construct a stone lighthouse and provide fuel for the fire. In 1204 Old Winchelsea was third after London and Southampton in harbour dues paid by merchants - £62 represents twice the trade of any other Cinque Port. Winchelsea must have been a wealthy town who could afford to build a stone lighthouse to guide ships into the port.

It would not then be surprising if the tower on the Winchelsea seal represented their lighthouse as it was such a distinctive feature of the port and a demonstration of its wealth. The steps up to the tower might relate to the need to protect against flooding from the sea which is shown at the bottom of the seal.

Compass Points An Easter Poem

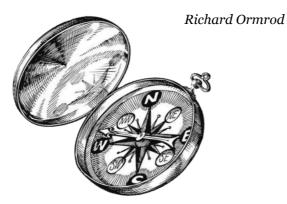
You have known and mapped my longitude and latitude before I was; set my compass points, the fault-lines of my being; more ---

Imbued me with a sensor, a homing-device to search you out; a thirst to know, to prove your love --yet, trapped as I am in

Linear time and finite space
-- mired in my own mediocrity —
I cannot find your face, nor
grasp your grace, held out
to me, free as a dove

In flight, from the ark of all my anxieties--winging away towards infinity, some peace beyond the stars unknown to me ---

Yet, you have lived my birth and died my death already -- generosity I cannot emulate — what is left for me to do? Nothing. But to praise you.





Gooders Hide Linda Wren

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

It's April already and spring is definitely arriving at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. As well as looking forward to the delights of nature, the Easter holidays also bring plenty of activities and events.

Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th April sees our *Wild Rye Holiday Club* running from 10am to 2pm on each of these days. The sessions are suitable for children aged 6 to 11. Parents don't need to accompany but places are limited so booking via the website is essential please.

Saturday 6th - *Wildlife Rangers*, 10am to1pm. Suitable for 12 to 16 year-olds. Parents do not accompany but booking is essential.

Saturday 8th - Auks and Orcas: *A Journey around the British Isles* - a talk by Michael Blencowe - 11am to 12:30pm, booking essential.

Saturday 8th - *Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Open Day*. Events start from 8:30am with a guided walk, followed by activities in the Discovery Centre. All are welcome.

Tuesday 11th to Saturday 15th April, 10am to 3pm, *John Muir Holiday Scheme for Families*. Five days for families to learn about conservation and gain a Family John Muir Conservation Award. Booking is essential. On Tuesday 11th explore the seashore for marine 'Easter' eggs in our *Easter Eggcase Hunt*. 1:30pm to 3:30pm for accompanied children age 6 to 13 years. Booking essential. On Thursday 13th - *Explore the Shore* - rock pool activities from 10am -to 12 for accompanied children aged 6 to 13 years. Booking essential.

Thursday 20th - Join James on a *Beginning Birdwatching* walk, 10am to 1pm, with talks and tips on bird identification. Free - booking essential.

Saturday 22nd - from 10am to 3pm, drop in to visit with our *Guide in a Hide* volunteers as they share birdwatching tips at the Gooders Hide.

Saturday 22nd - 10am to 12.30pm, *Wildlife Watch* is our monthly club for 5-11 year olds accompanied by an adult. Booking essential.

Saturday 29th - 10am to 1pm, *Lost Words for Rye Harbour* Writing Workshop. Booking essential.

Please also note that the Discovery Centre and Lime Kiln Café are open from 10am to 4pm as usual throughout the Easter bank holiday weekend and we look forward to seeing plenty of visitors.

To book or to find out more about any of these activities, visit our website page:

rye.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discovery-centre/events

Stay in touch for news and updates to our busy schedule by following us on social media: Facebook - @RyeHarbourNR; Instagram - @ryeharbournr or Twitter @ryeharbour_NR

rye.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

Katherine Crowther Communications Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust



Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Weekly Wellbeing Walks

Enjoy the outdoors with a morning of gentle walking across Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Suitable for all abilities.

Wednesdays 9:45 am - 11 am

Meet at the shelter next to the public toilets in Rye Harbour village, close to the bus turning circle and bus stop – ideal for coming by bus

Booking isn't needed but suitable footwear is!
Information about all our events can be found here:
sussexwilfdlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on or scan the QR code:







Registered Charity No. 207005



Pett Level Rescue Boat

Hello to all our friends and supporters from everyone at Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat. The evenings are lighter and despite some cold and gloomy March weather, we are looking forward to a wonderful spring.

As always, we thank all those who take the time to support us, through volunteering, donations or simply stopping to chat to us on Sundays.

We are delighted to receive a grant via the Charities Aid Foundation to support our SAR training activities. This grant will go towards essential casualty care training for our volunteers and other essential training courses our crew require.

Our AGM will take place on Sunday 14th May at 10am at the PLIRB Boathouse. The AGM will appoint the Committee for the upcoming year and review the annual reports. All are welcome to attend.

A reminder that our annual Open Day which will take place on Sunday 27th August. It's a long way off, but seeing how diaries get very booked up, we like to let you know early. If you are interested in having a stall, donating a prize or being involved, please email *plirbrescue@gmail.com*

A thank you also to all those involved in essential maintenance on our launch and recovery vehicle. Vital work to keep the tractor safe and operational is carried out by our volunteers who give up their time to keep us rescue ready.

The Charity Shed will re-open this month. Thank you to everyone for their generous donations to sell on the stall – we will announce the re-opening date, do come down to browse for a bargain.

PLIRB is looking for a Fundraiser to join our team. The holder of the post will be a member of the Committee and be involved in helping secure much-needed funds to ensure the future of the rescue boat. If you are interested, or know anyone who might be, please email <code>plirbrescue@gmail.com</code> for more details.

We look forward to a busy spring with lots of exciting announcements to follow. Do come and visit us on Sundays and, if you would like to get involved, please get in touch. Always continue to be vigilant about weather warnings, seasonal tides and currents and stay mindful of the dangers at both the top and bottom of local cliffs.

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







You are invited to our Cheese & Wine evening

Friday 21st April from 7.30pm at the Hub on Rye Hill

Tickets £35 each available by email fundraising@ryehospital.org.uk or call 01797 228842

Raffle and small local artwork sale on the night

Graeme from Rye Fine Wines will provide an exclusive wine tasting that will consist of six quality wines from fabulous boutique vineyards

It will include three red and three white wines to sample, and to accompany will be award winning cheeses from Alsop & Walker, introduced by Maggs Carr



Rye Food Bank

You can find out more about Rye Food Bank, and how the Trussell Trust works, and ways you can offer support, here: <u>rye.foodbank.org.uk</u> <u>trusselltrust.org/what-we-do</u>

Cam makes monthly doorstep collections of food. If you are donating, could you email him so that he can draw up a collection schedule.

Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar April 2023

Saturday 1st Church Market 10.30am till 12 Garden Society Talk - New Hall - 2pm for 2.30 Sunday 2nd 8am: BCP Holy Communion at Winchelsea Palm Sunday 9.30am: Parish Communion at Pett 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea Tuesday 4th Mothers' Prayers - 'Wee Five' Sea Road - 10am Thursday 6th 6pm: Maundy Thursday Eucharist at Winchelsea Friday 7th 2pm: Good Friday Meditation at Icklesham Saturday 8th 8pm: Easter Vigil Service at Winchelsea Sunday 9th 6am: Dawn Eucharist on the beach Easter 8.30am: BCP Holy Communion at Pett Level 9.30am: Parish Communion at Icklesham 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea Monday 10th Mayoring Ceremony - St Thomas's Church - 11am Mayoring Town Reception - New Hall - 6.30pm to 8.30 Wednesday 12th Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30pm Saturday 15th Residents' Association Meeting - New Hall - 11 am to 12.30 Film Night - New Hall - 6pm for 7 Sunday 16th 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea Friday 21st Literary Society - Court Hall - 7pm for 7.30 Saturday 22nd Church Annual Meeting - St Thomas's Church - 10.30am Sunday 23rd 9.30am: Parish Communion at Icklesham 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea Friday 28th Fellowship Lunch - W B Community Hall - 12.30 for 1pm

Sunday 30th Joint Benefice Service

Sat 6th May Coronation

Sun 7th May 8am: BCP Holy Communion at Winchelsea 9.30am: Parish Communion at Pett

Saturday 29th Conservation Society AGM - Court Hall - 10am

11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea

Coronation Street Party - St Thomas Street - 1pm to 4pm

Church Market 10.30am till 12 (no Market on 6th May)

Mon 8th May Winchelsea Fact and Fiction event

Further ahead

18th - 21st May Celebrating Creation - St Thomas' Church

Sat 12th August Winchelsea Summer Fete



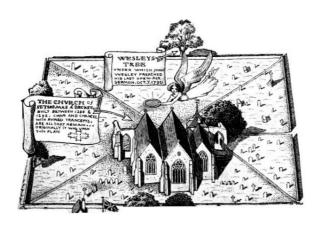
Please send copy for the May Magazine to <u>ryeview@gmail.com</u> before Tuesday 25th April

For Winchelsea Beach information go to winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk

For Winchelsea information go to $\underline{winchelsea.com}$

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

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



Rector of Winchelsea and Icklesham and Priest in Charge of Pett

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

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PCC Secretary

Angela Hill Friars Halt, Friars Road TN36 4ED 01797 226325 <u>angelam.hill@btinternet.com</u>

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St Richard's Chapel Warden

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